

Search



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Published responses

Only answers from respondents who gave permission are published. However, all responses are included in the analysis of this consultation.

Search responses

315 Published responses

Sort by: Date submitted: oldest to newest

[Fairbank House](#)

[Response
890294202](#)



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 905842314

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Fairbank House

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Collecting data on short term accommodatiion

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Small town tourism

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data are needed to support policy development and planning. Data are required for research

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data are needed for small populations (towns such as Maldon, Vic). Data will enhance information on tourism, household income and household use of its assets. Data will fit with other household information to better describe tourism activity in areas not now taken into account. ABS won't collect data under (I think) 15 rooms. That leaves out the entire short-term accommodation, small motels and glamping. As well, if someone stayed at Fairbank for 20 days (unlikely), is that the same as 20 'rooms' (stays) of one night?

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It's easily understood. Have you let out a room to a stranger/guest in the last five years?

How often? How many rooms?

Redacted text Fairbank House is at 9 Ireland St Maldon. It may be let out (it's one booking), to two (up to 6) people for two nights (usual minimum) or a week

to ten days. That's adults and children. Fairbank runs at about 30 per cent occupancy rate. Therefore I'm offering say average of four guest bookings per month, (10 days), and that's about \$100 per person per night, plus consumption in town coming into the Maldon economy . Where we have about 30 people advertising (say 150 beds), Daylesford used to have 3000 beds available a few years back. It's uncaptured data, people.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Of course it's intrusive , and no they won't answer accurately, many don't have records. But it's anonymous, for heaven's sake. You'll get a trend.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Any new question has to have careful coding. Short term accommodation can be like Fairbank (or glamping), i.e. dedicated; occasional (Easter, Folk Festival,

Twilight Dinner, concerts and arts events); or advertised all the time (Airbnb, Booking.com, Stayz/Homeaway). There's also house swap firms where you go to Sydney and the Sydneysider comes to Maldon for a week. But basically, it's yes or no. It's a trend, not financial accounting (well . .)

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There most certainly is. When Fairbank started up 25 years ago, the local Council wanted enough information to run a small army. As I was a public servant, I dutifully filled out forms and paid for entry on the website. I still do, but I'm a minority. Even bnb managers don't declare anything, they just swan through. If it was important to know what was going on with a handful of bnbs in the 1990s, wouldn't it be slightly more important in the era of Big Data?

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet

the topic need.

No alternatives

NO! There are no other data sources!

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Point form.

1. There are no data on short term accommodation under a set amount of rooms (hotels).
2. Short term accommodation is a significant economy driver in country towns
3. Governments know that tourism is a key industry for growth and spend a considerable amount of time picking favourites to spend money without evidence. They probably count ads on Airbnb (which are often duplicated/triplicated/closed down)
4. I believe that ABS has been blindsided by the disruptive economy and is therefore not fulfilling its brief. It must collect data on the economy, on the population, on industry in country towns.
5. What's the difference between a tourist in the city and one in Maldon?



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 890294202

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

improvements to religious involvement data

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

More detailed data on religious involvement would help to understand our diverse, multicultural and multi religious community better. This data would be used for research by religious groups, denominations, social researchers, government, and others who rely on understanding our religious landscape.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is needed to understand the differences in religious commitment, as signified through recent attendance at a religious service and recent donations to a religious group

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It would be an easy question.

In the last two weeks, have you attended a religious service?

In the last month, have you made a financial donation to a religious group?

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

These two extra questions would simply allow for greater understanding of their commitment to the religious group they have indicated affiliation with. I do not foresee any objection to it.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The addition of two additional questions on religious group affiliation (recent donations and recent attendance) would be simple to code as a binary yes / no.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The changes in religious affiliation are vital for understanding a rapidly growing multicultural population, and especially to understand social inclusion and growing isolation in society.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No other data survey includes such objective data. The National Church Life Survey is self selected and nowhere near as accurate as the Census would be.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Religious affiliation:

In the last two weeks, have you attended a religious service?

In the last month, have you made a financial donation to a religious group?





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 862702473

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What is your submission about?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care

- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Unpaid care of children
- ☒ Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- ☒ Unpaid work - domestic activities
- ☐ Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data would help understand commitment to charitable causes, with a question on charitable donations.

Vital for non profit groups, for government social policy groups.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of asking about charitable donations would help to understand commitment to charitable social causes apart from unpaid work.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The simple question would be: "In the last twelve months, have you made a financial donation to a non profit charitable group?"

It is important to note this should be different to a question on donations to a religious affiliation group

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It would go hand in hand with the question on unpaid work for a charitable group.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It would be one simple question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This would help to track monetary commitment to non profit groups and charitable causes/

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

It would be a simple question: "In the last twelve months, have you made a financial donation to a charitable organisation?"

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 372620413

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

i think pets need to be added to the census because for many of us pets are family.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships
- ☐ Marital status
- ☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

yes it is for all of the above reasons

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

point no.3 in particular

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

yes

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

yes

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

yes

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

yes

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

not that im aware of

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 966877586

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I feel we require statistics on Sexual Orientation. This will help in planning and providing resources to those on the LGBTQI+ community, and would provide an accurate picture for governments and would allow for them to move away from population estimates.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Sexual Orientation

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

By gathering statistics on sexual orientation, the three levels of government and plan, legislate and provide resources that support the LGBTQI+ community's health and development.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data is required for small geographical areas

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

respondents will easily know the answer to the question, and can answer quickly.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic may come across as intrusive, however, through education of the public (like that of the religion campaign in the last census), respondents will answer truthfully. A "I do not wish to answer" should also be option though.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic will not add cost to the census, however, it may help to have short explanation attached to this question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic will remain relevant until there is ease of access to resources and health facilities for tge lgbtqi+ community.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no other accurate source of information. Only estimates.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 116649616

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

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- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The wording of the question of religion confuses the concept of religion with denomination. For example, Anglican or Baptist are a denominations of Christianity, not religions. People are given the opportunity to say they are Muslims or Buddhists but they can't say they are Christians. Many Christians identify primarily as Christians rather than a particular denomination and move between denominations. The census advertising also confuses faith and belief with attendance.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☐ Location

☐ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is incorrect to imply that different Christian denominations are different religions. On the whole they share the same scriptures and the same core beliefs. Many denominations exist mainly because they emerged in different parts of the world at a time when travel and communication was slow and difficult. (Anglicans emerged in England, Presbyterians in Scotland, Lutherans in Germany, Church of Christ in USA etc.). These days, Christians, and even clergy, move readily between denominations but would not think they are changing religions. Personally I have done work for many of these denominations but I have not changed religion in doing so.

A simple solution to this would be the use of a drop-down menu. Having selected "Christian", a respondent would be prompted to select which denomination they adhere to; similarly, a person selecting "Muslim" could choose which branch of Islam they identify with, etc. The option "Other" should also be given for each religion. The options "Other Religion" and "No Religion" should also be given.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Census advertising also gave problematic messages because it tended to equate religious faith with attendance at places of worship but the two are not necessarily connected. Many Hindus and Buddhists don't (or can't) attend the temples but have shrines in their homes where they perform religious duties. Temples have a purpose but ordinary Hindus and Buddhists don't necessarily have to access them to consider themselves devout believers. Similarly some committed Christians don't attend church. Recent research (by the Barna Group: findings were published in an article in Christianity Today, June 2017, page 15) conducted on Americans who identify as "Christians" but don't attend church found that a significant group strongly agree with Christian theology, pray as much as church attenders and score significantly on other faith indicators. I personally know people like this in Australia who are committed to their faith but have not found churches to be helpful (especially in country areas where choice is limited) or believe their time would be better spent helping and serving people than sitting in church meetings. Such people would readily declare themselves as Christians on the census but could not tick any of the current census options: they are not 'no religion' but they don't belong to any of the denominations either.

Furthermore, there are non-Christians who go to church because their families and friends attend or they want to find out what it is about. After some time some commit and become Christians, others decide against and drop out, while some keep coming as non-Christians because they value the pastoral support and fellowship. The situation is much more complicated than whether people attend church or not as some people don't attend but are committed Christians, while others do attend but are not Christians.

To explore how serious people are about observance of their nominated religion, a follow-up question could ask how often they engage in some faith based activity. E.g. pray, meditate, read scriptures or religious literature, attend a place of worship, or help others out of religious motivation.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A simple solution would be the use of a drop-down menu. Having selected “Christian”, a respondent would be prompted to select which denomination they adhere to; similarly, a person selecting “Muslim” could choose which branch of Islam they identify with, etc. The option “Other” should also be given for each religion. The options “Other Religion” and “No Religion” should also be given.

The current question is not easily answered by many Christians because it confuses their faith and beliefs with the denomination they attend. Christians who attend independent churches or one of the many home churches really can't provide an accurate answer. Many such people have told me they tick a denomination that they don't attend because that is the best they can do, but that skews the data. I expect the ABS also ends up with lots of denominational names with a small number of adherents. There is also the issue of committed Christians who don't attend church for whatever reason but they are not "no religion". They cannot even say they are Christians.

Apart from Australia, North America is now the continent that has the smallest Christian population with only 12% of the world's Christians. Africa (23%), Latin America (23%) and Asia (17%) each have more Christians than North America and collectively have 63% of the world's Christians. India (where Christianity is a minority religion) has about twice as many people who identify as Christians as the United Kingdom. Furthermore Christianity is growing much faster in Africa, Latin America and Asia than in Australia and the West. Many African and Asian Christians belong to groups with names most Australians have never heard of. They are from indigenous churches and many were not planted by westerners but emerged spontaneously, and new groups with new names keep emerging. If these Christians migrate to Australia, they can't tick any of the denominations listed in the census form and are not given the opportunity to tick Christian.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The current wording is not appropriate and I don't believe it leads to accurate answers. I believe that if people can state their religion as a first priority and their denomination or religious branch as a secondary question, more accurate data will result.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A drop down menu will make this easy.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The changes will be more relevant with continued immigration and the continued growth of informal, non-denominational expressions of Christianity.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XK4B-A.pdf](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 797800361

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Include options for gender to enable assessment of the true prevalence of individuals identifying as transgender or gender diverse in the 2021 Census (not an opt-in option which people are unlikely to answer). Differentiate this from sex (i.e. At birth, what was the person's sex? Options: female, male, intersex?)

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Obtaining data on individuals who identify as transgender or gender diverse is critical to inform health service provision for this marginalised population. In a medical setting, we have seen a 10-fold rise in individuals identifying as transgender between 2011 to 2016 and similar rates are seen worldwide. This is thought to be related to increasing social acceptance and understanding of gender rather than an increase in incidence given the considerable scientific

evidence that gender is biologically based and gender variant individuals have existed throughout history.

Obtaining accurate data on the prevalence of those who identify as a gender different to their birth-assigned sex will provide data to support policy development and health service delivery. Prevalence and location of individuals will allow the design and distribution of adequate health services to areas of need and adequate allocation of resources for this population who currently experience significant discrimination and health inequity as a result.

Furthermore, as medical research in the transgender field is in its infancy, this data will have widespread citations in medical research to allow for grant applications and development of appropriate research studies tailored to this population.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

In a medical setting, we have seen a 10-fold rise in individuals identifying as transgender between 2011 to 2016 and similar rates are seen worldwide. Based on conservative estimates of 0.6 - 1.2%, we estimate that approximately 150000 - 300000 Australians may identify as trans and gender diverse.

We understand that in the 2016 Census, special procedures were introduced for the first time to enable a respondent to complete an alternative online form containing three response options to the Sex question: Male, Female and Other (please specify). This online form was available to households or individual respondents on an opt-in basis by contacting the Census Inquiry Service or submitting an online assistance request. This was incredibly challenging for transgender individuals and transgender community feedback was that they were unaware of the complex procedure to specify their gender identity. It also does not provide information on birth-assigned sex which is also important.

Some 1,260 people were considered to have provided a valid and intentional

sex/gender diverse response (sex/gender because many did not give enough information to determine which). This is a rate of 5.4 per hundred thousand people - a very small proportion, and most certainly an inaccurate number of people with sex/gender other than male or female.

The decision to have this opt-in special procedure was implemented because of uncertainty about how the general public would respond to a question with an explicit 'other' option. This is not logical whatsoever as those that identify as cisgender male or female, would only select male or female. It is standard for most health services and businesses to have other options on gender forms, and in fact facebook has over 50 options.

Given fear of disclosure, collection of prevalence data needs to be at a census, population-based level and estimates from small cohorts (i.e. online samples, school samples) are inherently biased. Data on prevalence of those who identify as transgender will be enhanced with combination with other characteristics such as socioeconomic status, location of residence which will inform policy and health service delivery.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We propose the following simple, easy to understand questions which we have asked of various medical research populations in the community:

A. At birth, what was the person's sex?

- Female
- Male
- Intersex

For Question B, we propose 2 possible questions.

Option 1.

B. What is the person's current gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Trans female/Trans woman
- Trans male/Trans man
- Gender non-binary
- Gender queer
- Gender neutral
- Agender
- Other – please state

Alternative option 2 which may well be simpler.

B. Is this person's gender different to their birth sex?

- Yes, their current gender identity is the same as their birth-assigned sex.
- No, their current gender identity is different to their birth-assigned sex.

Note; there are many gender identities and only the most common are listed in option 1. above. We suggest avoiding having only 'male', 'female' and 'other'. The use of the word "other" as a gender category is "othering" and segregating. It actively casts people who are not one of the main two categories as outsiders, which suggests lesser status or importance.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Trans and gender diverse individuals exist and are humans like everyone else. They are not intrusive, offensive or controversial. There is considerable scientific evidence that gender identity is biologically based and this is supported by multiple international and national medical societies.

It is not logical that people asked this question would be offended. For those that do not identify as transgender (cisgender people), it is a straightforward process to simply select male or female. It is common place in the Australian community for health services and even many businesses to have other

options on gender forms to be inclusive of individuals who identify as trans and gender diverse. Social media site Facebook has over 50 options for gender (we are not proposing this many).

Regardless of whether an individual accepts trans and gender diverse individuals or not, they will be able to answer the simple questions that we propose.

Furthermore, including gender options outside of the traditional binary of male and female highlights also the existence of these identities and if the Australian population was not so so regularly confronted with a simple choice — “Are you male or female?” — our thinking about gender wouldn’t be so binary and more accepting of others.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As medical researchers, we strive to design questions which can be coded efficiently.

We propose the following simple, easy to understand questions which we have asked of various medical research populations in the community:

A. At birth, what was the person's sex?

- Female
- Male
- Intersex

For Question B, we propose 2 possible questions.

Option 1.

B. What is the person's current gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Trans female/Trans woman
- Trans male/Trans man

- Gender non-binary
- Gender queer
- Gender neutral
- Agender
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please state

Having the above most common gender options identified in our 2018 Australian survey of over 900 transgender individuals, will minimise any coding required for the Other option.

Alternative option 2 will not require any coding, and all those that respond No can be classified as trans or gender diverse.

B. Is this person's gender different to their birth sex?

- Yes, their current gender identity is the same as their birth-assigned sex.
- No, their current gender identity is different to their birth-assigned sex.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As mentioned, gender, a human trait, is biologically based, and trans and gender diverse individuals have existed throughout history. What has changed in the last 10 years is increased social acceptance and that society does not define individuals based on gender as much as in the past. This has led to a rapid increase in demand for transgender healthcare. Of most concern are that health statistics for this population are alarming; including medically diagnosed depression in 70%, anxiety in 40% and suicide attempts in 43%, rates far higher than the general Australian population. Health services are currently insufficient to meet demand. There is no accurate population-based data on prevalence of those who identify as transgender in Australia. Given fear of disclosure, collection of prevalence data needs to be at a census, population-

based level and estimates from small cohorts (i.e. online samples, school samples) are inherently biased.

Ongoing prevalence data will support research over time to accurately address and monitor these critical health issues over time. There is most certainly a continuing need for data on this topic in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Given fear of disclosure, collection of prevalence data needs to be at a census, population-based level and estimates from small cohorts (i.e. online samples, school samples) are inherently biased. Current studies worldwide estimate that between 0.6 to 3% of the population identify as transgender, however often many statistical manipulations have been performed to arise at these estimates. Given that there is no census data, and that many survey responses may not be reliable due to fear of identifying as transgender or disagreement on what "transgender means", these estimates are inaccurate. As we do not know the true prevalence, going uncensored essentially results in this population being overlooked and underserved resulting in individuals who identify as trans and gender diverse being dismissed as "just a choice" which is inaccurate.

Quantifying a community at the city or even the state level isn't enough — national statistics are necessary to truly understand the number of transgender Australians and their needs.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please

comment below.

Further comments

Austin Health is a tertiary referral hospital in Victoria. Led by international-recognised clinician-scientists and medical specialists, Trans Medical Research Group based in the Department of Medicine (Austin Health), The University of Melbourne provides strategic leadership in transgender health to achieve health equity and well-being through:

- 1) Medical research to find best treatments and developing a greater understanding of trans health issues.
- 2) Education of medical professionals to improve access to healthcare.
- 3) Improving clinical service delivery and
- 4) Advocacy to decrease stigma for all transgender and gender diverse individuals.

Members of the Trans Medical Research group are trans and gender diverse and we view active engagement with the transgender community as an essential part of our activities.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 4495314

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

There are an increasing number of vegans in the population. It would help with restaurants and supermarkets in catering for these individuals.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Vegans and food availability

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is required for a number of reasons. It will aid in research, maybe even lounging to health issues. It will also help to contribute to improving availability of vegan foods within the community.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of finding the number of vegans and vegan families combined with income and availability of produce.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Asking questions along lines of: Do you have vegans in household. How many. Do you find meals easy to prepare. Do you find the availability of food in your area satisfactory.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

There is no reason for people not to want to answer this question that I can envision.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The questions outlined earlier need berry little explanation. If need be give explanation for vegan as an individual who does not consume any animal products.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As more and more people become vegans this data will continue to become relevany. For example the UK has seen an increase to 7% of vegans since last census.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The census would be the best way to actually gain effective data on all residents.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 310029306

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

How often have you been able to afford to access dental health care?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Medical

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Yes, as the cost of dentistry is inaccessible, data to show that may actually change the way dentists are priced etc

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is, declining dental health is having a significant impact on the community, and so many people are locked out of actually being able to access something which is as vital as seeing the doctor.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes, so simple, it can just be a yes, no, why have you been able to access dental care?

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes everyone needs it

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

I feel like it can be collected as easily as any other census data

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes, as it becomes more expensive and the wage gap doesn't increase to cover cost of living yes

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Not currently no

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1006932744

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Collect information on what type of pets households own, what spp of fish are owned, whether kept indoors or outdoors

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships
- ☐ Marital status
- ☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This topic is of current national importance as the data is necessary for research purposes. To properly manage the issue of invasive freshwater fish spp in Australia, data are required to understand population size of ornamental/aquatic fish spp and what spp households possess.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

To understand wholly the spread of invasive freshwater fish in Australian households, data needs to be collected from all households. This is to understand where populations are that could pose a threat to waterways and identify the threat of ornamental/aquarium spp

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Possession of animals will be well known to the surveyed persons and will be

an easy multiple choice question. The identification of spp should also be known to the surveyed persons, as buying these animals is generally by spp rather than a broad collection.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

No offence to persons is anticipated.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Collection of the data will be simple as it can be easily added to the previous survey forms layout with minimal cost, as involves little ink or lineage. No major coding will be required and the data can be easily understood.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

To accurately track the spread of invasive freshwater fish in Australia, which is caused majorly by the aquarium trade, data needs to be collected on where the spp are kept in Australia. Collecting this information in 2021 will form a basis of knowledge future research can compare to and call on for statistics of what potentially threatening spp are present in Australia.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Other than a survey of 2022 households by the Animal Medicines Australia group in 2013 & 2016, that focused on social science questions including household makeup, cost associated, and length of ownership, no data has been recorded on a large scale of what spp of fish are owned in Australia. This gap in knowledge is surprising as this is a pressing topic in a country where invasions of environment- and community- altering pest fish is a major issue, and should be addressed by the ABS.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 993110031

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

community organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Carers ACT

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We would like to see questions similar to the UK census which capture -
Number of people providing care by sex, age, general self rated health, and
hours a week spent providing care.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The topic is needed to support policy development and planning and the research data will be used for research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

We cannot get a true picture of how many people are carers providing unpaid care supports on a National nor State level.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic can easily be understood and responded to by quick questions such as the ones used in the UK census. Number of people providing care by sex, age, general self rated health, and hours a week spent providing care.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Census respondents may not have identified that they are unpaid carers previous to anyone asking these questions. The questions potentially are awareness raising.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

If the UK census ask these questions then presumably they do not present too much of a difficulty coding, processing, nor should they significantly add to the cost of the census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The data is likely to be needed on an ongoing basis and will remain more and more relevant into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As far as we are aware there is no large scale survey which collects this data already.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

We believe it would be of great value to a variety of organisations and government departments to ascertain via data collection the; number of people providing care by sex, age, their general self rated health, and hours a week spent providing care.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 536863374

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Who you are representing

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- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

myself

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

not applicable

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Observations on questions 7, 18 and 33 on the 2016 census form

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

indigenous and other ancestry issues; income measures

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

more precise data on indigenous identity is required for policy development as to indigenous disadvantage; this includes vexed issues as to ancestry and the way that personal income data is collected

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

all three

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I'm not sure that data on indigenous identity, ancestries of all residents or personal income are well-collected

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

As I am unable to fit my observations into your consultation format I attach a word document

Attachments

 [ANON-9KFG-XK4Q-S.doc](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 23429162

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Can you please stitch together the Household expenditure survey with the census by sa1s? I assume you would need to ask some HES questions on the census, or extrapolate the HES nationwide.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Expenditure

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The private sector makes great use of the census by mapping consumer demographics. After that we attach it consumption data, usually by purchasing credit card data or through surveys with much smaller sample sizes. Needless to say, it would be much more accurate if the we had a complete census of the population rather than extrapolating from smaller samples.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As per q1, currently doing it with far less accurate means. Would improve the wellbeing of Australians if the census incorporated this

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Already collecting on a small scale in the HES. Just want you to fully roll out in the census

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Respondents already participating in the HES therefore no risk

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Integers are the easiest to collect

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Absolutely no doubt

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Let me know if there is

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 280370074

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

population

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Date of birth or age
- ☐ Children ever born
- ☐ Other/don't know



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 467629039

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

In General Community Profile, Table G59 (Method of travel to work by sex), I request that 'Bicycle' be explicitly included under 'Two methods' for both Train and Bus, and that Tram be included as a heading under Two methods with the same sub-options. This is because of the increasing importance of cycling in city planning, and the increasing use of Tram/light rail as a method of travel to work, often in combination with cycling.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☐ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Mode of travel to work

☒ Name and address of workplace attended

☒ Number of motor vehicles

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

See summary above. Data on cycling to work in combination with train, bus and tram/light rail is useful for transport policy research analysis and planning, especially in regard to travel from outlying suburbs of our major cities. At

present the only reliable information on cycling to work is under 'One method', ie people who travel from home to workplace by bicycle and use no other method. Travel by bicycle and another mode is becoming more common and should be visible in the data.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data should be collected from all respondents who travel to work on Census Day.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I believe this data is already collected on the Census Form and just needs to be visible in the published data tables.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Data collection is acceptable and included in the current Census Form.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Data is already collected.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is already a long time series on travel to work by bicycle. Including bicycle travel under 'Two methods' will ensure that the data set is complete for 2021 and later Censuses as bicycle travel in combination with Train, Bus and Tram/Light rail becomes more common and more important in assessing the transport infrastructure needs of outlying urban areas.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I am not aware that bicycle travel is published elsewhere under 'Two methods'.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 33696553

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Reducing data collections that are either pointless or so inaccurate they are worse than useless

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Already stated

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As stated, there is no purpose in collecting and/or publishing which is either useless or fatally innaccurate

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Why is this data needed and what decisions would be different in its absence?

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We already know there is a strong “donkey vote” with fist boxes being ticked, why not reverse the order on some identified forms, scan accordingly . Income is also so understated, especially by low income groups it is worse than useless, anyway according to your own findings nearly half of all Australians are functionally illiterate so presumably ensues data cannot be reliable.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Why have any topics? The Netherlands has N “E” Census at a cost of 1% of a normal Census

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Already stated

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

After the outcry over the 1976 Census the ABS found forty per cent of the questions were unnecessary or the data was available elsewhere, why does the Census duplicate MPS data for example?

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Australia once got on just fine for nearly twenty years so why not now? The previous address questions are asked by no other census in the world what legitimate use could this be put to? Who cares where people have gone to or come from? Other than idle curiosity? ABS internal documents already admit marriage data is no longer linked to fecundity so why collect it? The passenger embarkation has been abandoned and no one notices,!

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 510195897

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I am a trans-woman and the last census effectively rendered me invisible along with the rest of my community by making a non binary gender response difficult to enter. This negatively impacts on my community's visibility and planning to meet my community's needs. Birth sex questions and current gender questions need to be included not only to accurately gauge how many trans-people are in Australia but also to raise people's awareness that a non-binary response is possible and legally sanctioned.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☐

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☐ Location

☐ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The last census made entering a non-binary gender difficult which caused many people in my community to simply enter a binary response of either male or female. This rendered the trans-and gender diverse community invisible or, have they been in same-sex relationships, made them appear to be part of the LGB Section of the gay community rather than T as well.

This impacts on organisations' ability to plan for and meet the needs of the gender diverse community since there is limited data on how many trans-and gender diverse people there are. There is also limited data available on the distribution of trans and gender diverse people according to area. This data is required to support policy development, planning and or monitoring of trans-and gender Diverse demographics. It is also required for legislative reform since data can indicate need. It is also required for research purposes to accurately predict trends and trans-and gender diverse demographics.

Furthermore a little addressed topic is ageing amongst trans-and gender diverse people because my community has specific needs when it comes to ageing and can experience unintentional systemic discrimination at their end of

life care.

The last point I wish to make about data collection is that making a non-binary response the exception rather than the rule reinforces community beliefs that are non-binary gender response is an exception rather than a rule. Including questions about birth sex and current gender will draw the wider community's attention to the possibility that there is something other than male or female. Just by that simple fact my community's profile will be raised and will benefit from a positive step towards inclusion.

In summary the first step towards addressing a communities needs is identifying that that community exists. The Australian bureau of statistics census must be changed to make it as easy as possible for trans-and gender diverse people to identify themselves confidentially for research purposes and data collection if our living conditions are to improve.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed for the trans-and gender diverse community because it is a small population group without any accurate data collected on its size or extent. This data is vital to planning for the needs of the trans-and gender diverse community or simply to raising its profile by getting an accurate picture of how many trans and gender diverse Australians there are. The recent debate on marriage equality highlighted the usefulness of ignorance about trans-and gender diverse people and communities to interested groups opposed to marriage equality. There was no data with which to rebut many hateful arguments.

The increasing incidence of trans-people and gender diverse people varying ages but above all amongst children makes it a matter of national importance to collect data on gender. This will serve to inform medical and legislative organisations in the treatment of the same and will simultaneously make it more difficult for ignorant oppositional arguments to thrive.

Given the high rates of suicide amongst trans-and gender diverse people this is quite literally a life and death matter. The high rates of suicide, depression and other mental health issues have been shown to be resultant of the treatment of trans-and gender diverse people by the cis-gendered community. Again visibility equals survival for trans-and gender diverse communities. Visibility in the census means that individual trans-and gender diverse people do not have to carry the burden of visibility; all trans-and gender diverse people can be safely visible.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Collecting data on birth sex is a simple process already included in the census. Additional collection of data on gender is a similar process widely used throughout the census and can be a drop box or simply more options on a form. The ability to record trans and gender diverse people already exists it just needs to be extended to the entire population instead of simply those who request it. It will be clear and easy for respondents to understand and answer since each respondent will clearly know their birth sex and current gender status .

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Data collection on birth sex and current gender is now the norm on many social platforms which already include multiple options. People can still choose to conceal their current gender status and answer binary however the inclusion of more options is not likely to offend since the Australian community is showing itself increasingly accepting of diversity.

Furthermore not including more gender options to reflect reality could be argued to disadvantage the trans-and gender diverse community systemically by rendering us invisible and compromising planning for our needs. Some might argue this to be a breach of antidiscrimination law based on gender.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Australian bureau of statistics already has the capacity to collect information on births sex and current gender. I am unable to comment on the costs to the ABS as I do not have sufficient information however I believe that whatever the costs are they will be greatly outweighed by the benefit to a small community of Australians experiencing Extreme levels of discrimination and harassment. Collecting data on the trans-and gender diverse community is urgently required to inform regulating organisations on how to support us.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There have always been trans-and gender diverse people amongst us. This is our first opportunity for the Australian bureau of statistics to accurately collect data on how many of us there are and where we live. Trans-and gender diverse people will continue to exist into the future and therefore data collection will remain as relevant as binary gender data collection has been in the past given our particular needs.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is limited data available about the gender and trans-community. Currently overseas data collection remains a important data source for Australians. Also individual students conducting research in Australian universities frequently approach the trans-community to obtain data which could be obtained from The Australian bureau of statistics were such data collected. The Australian bureau of statistics census will be the first systematic attempt at a national snapshot of the gender and trans-community in Australia. There is quite simply no other irrefutable and reliable source.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

My submission was written on the fly and as such may have omissions. I would be more than happy to be contacted by the Australian bureau statistics to answer questions or to be requested to prepare a more complete submission with references. Also I would not be surprised were there to be limited submissions on the topic of sex and gender. This should not detract from its importance. My community has always been disadvantaged by its apparent minority status but although our voice maybe feeble our message is important; please hear it. Thank you for the opportunity of making the submission to you. I look forward to hearing from you should you have any further questions or seek any additional submission.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 117666343

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

It is wonderful that we have such a diverse population to draw upon, and that we are still a relatively peaceful country. Having recent read an article on how people identify with their past, which then carries forward into their actions and thus our future, I would suggest that we consider including further questions in the Census that asks not only where a person was born, and their ancestry, but also how do they identify and see themselves? To clarify, whilst a person may be born here, depending on their upbringing they may not identify themselves as being Australian.

Another point I believe would assist in future planning for local councils is the number of dog owners, and therefore what needs to be planned for as off lead dog parks. Currently in many of our cities there appears to be a lack of planning for this. Some rural councils however seem to be already considering this and planning for it.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Two topics, one is cultural diversity, the other is Planning.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

For the first topic - data is required for program monitoring and potentially may assist in re-establishing our national identity.

For the second topic - data is required for planning.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

For the first topic - data is required nationally.

For the second topic - data is required in all major cities.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

For both topics information can be collected in simple questions.

Respondents are likely to easily know the answer to both topics.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Of the two topics, neither should be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial, with respondents likely to answer correctly.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

For both topics:

- the topics or questions will not present major difficulties for coding the information
- the topics or questions will not require extensive processing
- the topics will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
- the topics will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
- the collection of data on the topics will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

- the topics are likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

For the first topic, from reading between the lines of occurrences throughout our country and elsewhere, the disconnect by residents to identifying themselves as Australian is in part what has contributed to various issues we are now facing. However, there does not appear to be any real data to support this.

On the second topic, I believe there is a lack of planning in this area which needs to be addressed sooner rather than later when it becomes more expensive and problematic.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 921355799

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Motorcycles and scooters (powered two wheeled vehicles) should be included as a mode of transport to work. They are used by many more people than bicycles and make a significant contribution to reducing congestion, pollution and parking spaces.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Motorcycles and scooters (powered two wheeled vehicles) should be included as a mode of transport to work. They are used by many more people than bicycles and make a significant contribution to reducing congestion, pollution and parking spaces.

An accurate understanding of the number of commuters using power two-wheeled vehicles as a regular mode of transport is required to enable accurate planning and appropriate policy development for transport.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

A nationwide understanding of the use of motorcycles and scooters for commuting will support appropriate transport policy and planning to be undertaken throughout the country.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The simple addition of "Motorcycle or Scooter" to the mode of transport question is all that is required.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It's just another mode of transport.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It's just another mode of transport.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Policies that encourage the use of powered two wheeled vehicles for

commuting are used widely throughout the world as a way of reducing congestion and pollution. Understanding use over time will support development of these policies in Australia,

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I am unaware of any alternative data sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 601620017

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Powered two-wheeled vehicles (motorcycles and Scooters) must be included as a mode of transport. They are increasingly used in our cities, making a significant contribution to reducing congestion, lessening pollution and freeing up of parking spaces. As registered vehicles with owners who pay to use our roads, we should be recognised and counted, so that we can be factored into future infrastructure projects.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Topics on transport

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Mode of travel to work

CL

☒ Name and address of workplace attended

☐ Number of motor vehicles

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Motorcycles and scooters (two-wheeled powered vehicles) should be included as a mode of transport. Potentially more people have and use a motorcycle or scooter than a bicycle in the state capitals, making a significant contribution to reducing congestion, freeing up parking, and lowering pollution.

An accurate understanding and factual data regarding the numbers of Scooter and Motorcycles on the road as a mode of transport, will help legislators, policy makers and infrastructure planners prepare appropriate policy development for transport.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

A nationwide understanding of the use of motorcycles and scooters for commuting will support transport policy and planning to be undertaken throughout the country.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

easy to answer:

the simple addition of 'motorcycle or scooter' to the mode of transport question
- is all that is required

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is acceptable - its just another mode of transport

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

its just another mode of transport

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

continuing need:

Policies that encourage the use of powered two wheeled vehicles for commuting are used widely throughout the world as a way of reducing congestion and pollution. Understanding use over time will support evolving policy in Australia

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

no alternatives - i do not know of any other nationwide data source.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 617113977

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Do not repeat the mistake of asking for people's names. It is of no value, and results in a reluctance to provide accurate responses to the census, and you end up with invalid data. It impacted how I responded to the census, and due to the resulting loss of trust in the ATO, I refused to participate in subsequent ATO studies.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

See above summary.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

See summary to avoid invalid data.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

See summary to avoid invalid data.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 496450447

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

ANZSCO re-classifications 2021

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒

☐ Self employed - number of employees

☐ Occupation

☐ Industry of employment

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Can you capture casual employment across occupations and industry classifications

Review of ANZSCO down to a 4 - digit level across all industries

More splits of income, particular at the higher income levels, perhaps up to 500K

This data would assist in labour force research in the building and construction industry and better inform workforce policy

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Agree

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

better workforce coverage over time would provide a better grounding for policy developments, particularly for skills development policies in emerging occupations which are not captured in the current ANZSCO classifications



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 174710414

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Include a question regarding property title in the Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- ☐ Structure and types of dwellings
- ☒ Homelessness
- ☒ Housing costs
- ☒

☐ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Land titles data collected individually from land titles offices around the country by myself and academic colleagues indicates that there are over 300,000 strata and community title developments in Australia containing approximately 2.5 million units. The insured value of these properties (according to estimates based on data provided to academic researchers by large strata insurance companies) is approximately \$539 billion. These properties are owned under a shared ownership model which has important implications for policy development and planning. Yet because it is not possible to link data about these properties to the people who live in them, the essential information needed for such policy development is absent. This data is also essential for research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is important to connect data about the ownership of property under strata and community title to data about the people who live in those properties. This is because these properties are owned collectively and raise important concerns for policy development that are too often overlooked in the Australian context

due to an absence of such information. This will be made possible by including a question in the census asking about land title.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This data is already successfully collected in national surveys of other countries. For example the Canadian Housing Survey includes the question: Is this dwelling part of a condominium development? Yes/No

An Australian equivalent would be:

Is this dwelling part of a strata or community title development? Yes/no

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic is unlikely to cause any offence and respondents should be able to accurately respond.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed question is clear and requires a simple yes/no answer.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

2015 was the first year in Australia's history that there were more dwelling starts for attached properties than for detached properties. The vast majority of these attached properties are strata and community title properties. The trend towards strata living is increasing exponentially as more and more apartments and attached townhouses are built around the country.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As identified earlier, it is possible to collect data from each state and territory land titles office about the numbers of strata and community title properties. However, this data is not recorded in a standardised manner between states and requires extensive data cleaning which is both time consuming and expensive for academic researchers. More importantly, it is not currently possible to link this data to data about the residents of these properties.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 614147797

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker workforce qualifications - education and training.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☐ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☐ Highest year of schooling
- ☐ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐ Che



Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring and used for research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data is needed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and additionally connected through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic can be collected in a simple question or questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic maybe considered controversial but if the questions are simple and clear they will be able to respond accurately. Ensure questions consider cultural terminology.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Information sought is relatively simple and processing will not require extensive work

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic will remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data is collected for administrative purposes





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 48813885

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

As a presenter for a train the trainer program promoting cultural awareness in teachers of English as a Second Language to adults, I found the estimated statistic that about 50% of the World's population is multilingual.

(www.researchgate.net) [1% are polyglot]

I tried but failed to find any data about how many Australians are bi or multi lingual. In the education sector this information is useful and important for adapting curriculum and for a teacher's cultural awareness.

The current question (language spoken at home) does not capture people such as myself (Chinese as a second language but not used at home) or those who are fluent in, and maybe use in a multilingual workplace, languages which their

“home” does not speak.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Australian citizenship
- ☐ Country of birth
- ☐ Country of birth of parents
- ☐ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☐ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☐ Proficiency in spoken English
- ☐ Ancestry
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Multilingual indicator

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

You may wish to consider the following points in your response.

- data is required for an electoral or legislative purpose
- data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring – this data regarding language could be used in the education sector for Curriculum planning, the medical and advertising sectors for which languages in which to publish material
- data is used for research purposes – the data could be used to track change over time. Australia is changing and we need to be aware of where the change is happening and what is the outcome of those changes. Previously Australia was predominantly monolingual, English speaking – what is it now? What Indigenous languages are spoken? Where are the concentrations of different languages?

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

You may wish to consider the following points in your response.

- data is needed for small population groups – there doesn't seem to be much existing public information regarding the size of language population groups – are they big or small?
- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census – some data is collected regarding “language spoken at home”. That, however is a specific question and does not capture whether people have the ability to speak a different language in their community, work, social or education i.e. outside of “home”.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

You may wish to consider the following points in your response.

- the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents - Yes
- the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions - yes
- respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s) - yes
- The question(s) is easy and quick to answer - yes

The question would need to be carefully worded e.g. Are you fluent in a language or languages other than English?

In the interest of collecting information about language (as separate from

ethnic) diversity, a further question could be: What other language or languages do you speak?

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

You may wish to consider the following points in your response.

- the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial – correct.
- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately – many people are proud to be able to speak a language other than English so would not hesitate to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups? In my opinion no specific groups would be affected by this question

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

You may wish to consider the following points in your response.

- the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information - correct
- the topic or question will not require extensive processing – correct, other languages could be coded to aid processing
- the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census – correct. It

adds a category to an existing question rather than creating a new question.

- the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation – correct. The question/s would be self-explanatory
- the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions – correct.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

You may wish to consider the following points in your response.

- there is a need for time series data on the topic – I believe this data would track language diversity, as opposed to ethnic diversity, over time
- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future – correct. This data would show shifts in language. This is useful data for planning, education, publishing and for general interest.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

You may wish to consider the following possible data sources and identify any

barriers to access in your response.

- data which is collected for administrative purposes
- the topic is collected in an ABS survey or by another organisation
- data is produced through integration of existing data sources

There is some information about worldwide language distribution but I have been unable to find data pertaining specifically to Australia. I have spoken to the ABS and have done extensive Google searches.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

If we knew how many, and which, languages are spoken in Australia, the Government and Education Department could make more effective decisions about how to promote language learning. Universities would be able to train teachers in the more 'popular' languages.

Even in the University of the Third Age (the over 55 age group) language classes are very well attended. In my opinion, learning other languages enhances brain development and cultural harmony and should be more actively embedded into Australian society.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 925721012

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Quality Education and Care NT, Department of Education

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

As the Early Childhood Sector continues to struggle with staff retention Quality Education and Care NT wished to gather more information pertaining to choice employers and the overall satisfaction employees have with organisations holistically. It would be beneficial to see what the common length of service is generally to help inform our research into retention in the early childhood sector . perhaps some of our approaches have been outdated and we may need to review our approach based on the culture of employment at present.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The data will inform national early childhood agendas such as decisions to or not increase the level of qualification required to educate and care for children birth to five years. It will assist in the development of policy when considering the shortage of professionals retained in the early years and how providers may respond to staff turn over.

As previously stated the research will help identify outdated policy and expectations. ie is consistent staff still a requirement if family life is more transient in this day and age?

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is definitely micr and macro data sets required

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic should be relatively easy to understand ie length of service and reason for change

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I don't believe it is intrusive or offensive and basic enough for an accurate answer

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

I think it will be easy to average as it is a basic question that has no double meaning

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

I think there remains a need to keep up with generation shift in culture and needs in order to respond the recruitment and retention issues in a range of environments

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

unsure

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Across Australia early childhood professionals continues to be in shortage and it would be interesting to note if this is an industry specific crisis or a shift in employment culture. Do invested parties need to review requirements to provide more room for flexible hours and perhaps approach consistency of relationships in a more innovative way because nationally employees value different working environments.

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Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 143378548

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Redacted text would like the ABS to collect data on the proportion of the population that is a skilled migrant, or a business/investor migrant, and the countries from which they migrated. Within that, we would like to know about movement of skilled and business/investor migrants between states - how many came into or out of Victoria from other States/Territories. Finally, we would like to know how many skilled and business/investor migrants are in full time/part time employment and how long they took to find a job after arriving in Victoria.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Migration

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Name

☐

Date of birth or age

☐

Children ever born

☐

Other/don't know

If other please specify

Country that the migrant migrated from, category of migration (skilled and business/investor), movement between States/Territories, access to employment

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, program monitoring and planning. It will inform how Victoria targets, obtains and assists skilled and business/investor migrants who directly contribute to the economy.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed for a specific population group.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic will be easily understood by respondents as they know what kind of visa they migrated with (if applicable). The topic can be collected in a short series of questions and the respondents will easily know the answers to the questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is not intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The questions will not present major difficulties for coding, or require extensive processing.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is highly relevant - not just to Victoria but to all States and Territories. It is critical for addressing skills shortages in Australia in a targeted fashion, and this will be relevant well into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no existing alternative data sources for inter-state migration of skilled and business/investor migrants, nor is there specific data on the employment of persons in these visa categories.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 17653769

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Association of Floral Designers

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Discussion with a range of industry employers.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Training and Education is the focus of this submission.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Attendance at an educational institution

☐

Engagement in employment, education and training

☐

Highest year of schooling

☒

Highest non-school qualification

☒

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Workplace training has problems with the requirements of the National Training Package requirements to those of one individual store. Such as we do not do this in our shop/salon. Constant interruptions in the workplace are another problem and lack of apprentice contact hours with formal training and teachers.

Engagement with industry. Under the apprenticeship system the employer makes the choice of provider based on their standards put back into the industry. If a person is trained outside of industry there is the problem of being 'work ready' and meeting industry standards of skill and speed. Industry engagement should be a pre-requisite.

The funding model should be of national concern as each state can affect the training model. For example, there is an imbalance of funding in Victoria. The TAFE system is funded to take a student who may hold a degree and a private provider is not. The industry should have the right to choose the provider of their choice under the same terms.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Agreed. This data is extremely important. Non completion data, for example shows where taxpayer dollars are used and often not to advantage. R.T.O's that serve industry specifically should maintain high completions. Data re-inforces this and many important facets.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I feel the topic should be written in plain English and direct a sensible answer. The question should be easily understood and the expertise comes into how the question is framed.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

If you were to present a question such as "would you employ a person on full wages that had trained and obtained a qualification if they had not worked at all in that specific industry". These are the sorts of examples industry would present.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Agreed but allow a respondent to add more if they wish to.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a definite need for continuance of data collection.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data is available regarding training through AVETMISS and this should be used and fused with other forms of data collection. Data should be able to cross reference.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This is a very important area and many future decisions are based on this data.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 809010980

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Exercise & Sports Science Australia [ESSA]

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

The following organisations have been approached and have confirmed support and consent to publish:

- Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA)
- National Disability Services

Redacted text

- National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP)
- Australian Sports Commission (ASC)
- Redacted text

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission focuses on data collection issues in the next Census which need to:

- be underpinned by a review of the ANZSCO and ANZSIC classifications to better reflect changes in Income and Work in time to ensure revised classifications can be used in the 2021 Census
- establish a new ANZSCO Unit Group for Exercise Physiologists, a group totalling in excess of 5,000 Exercise Physiology professionals within the ANZSCO Sub-Major Group 25 Health Professionals and Minor Group 252 Health Therapy Professionals
- transfer an existing Occupation: 234915 Exercise Physiologist into a new ANZSCO Unit Group for Exercise Physiologists and then re-number it within the ANZSCO Sub-Major Group 25 Health Professionals and Minor Group 252 Health Therapy Professionals
- establish a new ANZSCO Occupation Category for tertiary trained and accredited Exercise Scientists (that includes Sports Scientists) to support
 - o the implementation of national public health policies and monitor the delivery of exercise science services to the general population and
 - o promotion and education initiatives needed to ensure compliance with the Australian Sports Commission's national sports science accreditation policy designed to protect athletes and the integrity of Australian sport
- include the primary activity of exercise physiology service within the ANZSIC classification in Division Q – Health Care and Social Assistance, Subdivision 85 Medical and Other Health Care Services, Class 8539 Other Allied Health Services to reflect its place within the allied health sub sector and health industry
- acknowledge the delivery of exercise science services in a distinct “exercise science centre operations” listing in the ANZSIC classification in Division R Arts and Recreation Services, Subdivision 91 Sports and Recreation Activities, Group 911 Sports and Physical Recreation Activities, Class 9111 Health and Fitness Centres and Gymnasia Operation
- mirror the contemporary practices of the Australian workforce which can be employed by multiple employers, contractors, labour hire businesses and/or can be self-employed and work across multiple worksites (including people's homes)

- adequately track the workforce within new National Disability Insurance Scheme, the largest social policy reform since Medicare.

Our submission offers suggestions as to how the data collection issues in the next Census could be enhanced by changes to the ANZSCO and ANZSIC classifications. Changes to these classifications will also improve other ABS Collections like 4364.0.55.002 - Health Service Usage and Health Related Actions, Australia, 2014-15 which relies on these classifications to survey the population on their health service usage (e.g. consultations with health professionals) and in which Exercise Physiology is not included as an allied health service.

In the short term, ESSA is happy to participate in further consultation on the review of the ANZSCO classification (and any future reviews of this classification and the ANZSIC classification) and seek further support for this submission. We also request that ESSA be informed of any future consultations involving the allied health sector and be considered for any stakeholder and/or advisory groups for statistical consultations involving allied health and the broader health sector.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☐ Hours worked
- ☐ Self employed - number of employees
- ☐ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Collection of data for the NDIS

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Review of the ANZSCO classification

- establish a new ANZSCO Unit Group for the profession of Exercise Physiologists within the ANZSCO Sub-Major Group 25 Health Professionals and Minor Group 252 Health Therapy Professionals
 - o because the size of the group of ESSA Accredited Exercise Physiologists (just under 5,000) along with a conservative estimate of 200 hundred plus non-accredited Exercise Physiologists (refer Appendix 1 for details on how this figure was calculated) exceeds the minimum size (5,000) for a unit group thus warranting the establishment of a new ANZSCO Unit Group.

- o to support national and jurisdictional regulatory requirements for Exercise Physiologists to be accredited by ESSA, the peak professional and accrediting body for Exercise Physiologists in Australia. The National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professionals (NASRHP) membership system (for self-regulated health professions including exercise physiology) sets standards within a quality framework for peak health professional associations (like ESSA) to meet and use to self-regulate and accredit practitioners within that profession. These NASRHP standards mirror the professional standards of the 15 professions regulated by the Federal Government's Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The development of NASRHP's quality framework was supported by seed funding by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

Peak health professional associations that are founding members of NASRHP are:

- Audiology Australia
- Australasian Sonographers Association
- Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association
- Dietitians Association of Australia
- Exercise & Sports Science Australia
- Speech Pathology Australia

Currently, only the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) and ESSA have met the full NASRHP standards and are classed as full members of NASRHP.

- o to assist in the health workforce policy planning by the Commonwealth Department of Health given Exercise Physiologists are regarded as part of the allied health workforce by the Department.

(Reference:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/work-review-australian-government-health-workforce-programs-toc~chapter-8-developing-dental-allied-health-workforce~chapter-8-allied-health-workforce>)

- o to facilitate policy development by Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA), the peak national body for 20 national allied health professions in Australia including Exercise & Sports Science Australia and by other national policy alliances/public health policy bodies of which ESSA is a member (e.g. the National Aged Care Alliance, Mental Health Australia, Public Health Association of Australia)

- o to monitor and support the coverage of health services provided by Exercise Physiologists via Medicare, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI), Comcare, State Government Workers' Compensation schemes, Private Health Insurance providers, national self-insured employers and other various insurance schemes (e.g. Compulsory Third Party and income protection schemes)

- o to facilitate the collection of data on Exercise Physiology services through the My Health Record

- o to research and monitor workforce trends needed to deliver

- Exercise Physiology services across Australia to the general public and accredited Exercise is Medicine® Australia (EIM) workshops in partnership with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to educate health professionals from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) on how exercise can be used to prevent and manage chronic conditions, the leading cause of illness, disability and death in Australia (Reference: https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/8f7bd3d6-9e69-40c1-b7a8-40dca09a13bf/4_2-chronic-disease.pdf.aspx)

- o to research and monitor workforce trends and employment prospects for

Exercise Physiologists by Australian universities and the Commonwealth Government in determining levels of supported places (CSPs) in approved bachelor courses

- transfer an existing Occupation: 234915 Exercise Physiologist into a new ANZSCO Unit Group for Exercise Physiologists and then re-number it within the ANZSCO Sub-Major Group 25 Health Professionals and Minor Group 252 Health Therapy Professionals from SUB-MAJOR GROUP 23 Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals, MINOR GROUP 234 Natural and Physical Science Professionals, 234999 NATURAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS NEC.

- o to support national and jurisdictional regulatory requirements as outlined above

- o to assist in the health workforce policy planning as outlined above

- o to facilitate policy development as outlined above

- o to monitor and support the coverage of health services provided by Exercise Physiologists as outlined above

- o to facilitate the collection of data on Exercise Physiology services through the My Health Record

- o to research and monitor workforce trends and employment prospects as outlined above

We understand that in 2014, the ABS was wrongly informed by an unnamed source purportedly representing Exercise Physiologists in Australia (definitely not ESSA nor authorised by ESSA) that Exercise Physiologists should be listed with ANZSCO MINOR GROUP 234 Natural and Physical Science Professionals. ESSA strongly objects to the current listing of Exercise Physiologists with Natural and Physical Science Professionals and respectfully requests that this error in coding be corrected to align Exercise Physiologists with the allied health and broader health professions.

- establish a new ANZSCO Occupation for Exercise Scientist within SUB-MAJOR GROUP 23 Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals, MINOR GROUP 234 Natural and Physical Science Professionals, UNIT GROUP 2349 Other Natural and Physical Science Professionals

- o because the size of the group of Exercise Scientists exceeds the minimum size (300) for an ANZSCO Occupation Category thus warranting the establishment of a new Occupation. The total number of Accredited Exercise

Scientists and Sports Scientists is over 450 (Reference: Exercise & Sports Science Australia [ESSA] accreditation records as at April 2018) with another 2,000 plus non-accredited Exercise Science students graduating in 2016 alone (refer Appendix 1 for details on these 2,000 graduates).

o as Sports Scientists are a small (close to 250 accredited and non-accredited professionals) but growing subset of Exercise Scientists (refer Appendix 1 for the difference between exercise science, sports science and clinical exercise physiology), it is proposed that Sports Scientist to be one of two occupations listed in a new ANZSCO Occupation for Exercise Scientist (the two being Exercise Scientists and Sports Scientists) and that the Occupation of Sports Scientist be removed from 234999 NATURAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS NEC. and added to the new ANZSCO Occupation for Exercise Scientist.

o to support ESSA's role as the peak accreditation body for Australian sport science and its promotion and education initiatives to support and monitor compliance with the Australian Government's leading sport agency, the Australian Sports Commission's national sports science accreditation policy designed to protect athletes and the integrity of Australian sport (Reference: https://www.ausport.gov.au/news/ais_news/story_666704_australian_sport_commits_to_national_standard_for_sport_science)

- establish a new ANZSCO Occupation for disability support worker within SUB-MAJOR GROUP 42 Carers and Aides, MINOR GROUP 423 Personal Carers and Assistants by splitting aged care workers from disability workers currently listed together in UNIT GROUP 4231 Aged and Disabled Carers

o to support workforce planning and policy development to meet the needs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the largest social reform since Medicare

Review of the ANZSIC classification

- include the primary activity of exercise physiology service within the ANZSIC classification in Division Q – Health Care and Social Assistance, Subdivision 85 Medical and Other Health Care Services, Class 8539 Other Allied Health Services to reflect its place within the allied health sub sector and health industry

As outlined previously, exercise physiology services are regarded as part of the health industry and allied health sub sector as evidenced by:

- o exercise physiology services provided by Exercise Physiologists are self-regulated through a peak professional association (ESSA), with the standards confirmed and set by an independent body, the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP)
- o exercise physiology services are represented by ESSA, which is one of 20 national allied health professions within Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA), the peak national body for allied health in Australia
- o the Commonwealth Department of Health recognises Exercise Physiologists as part of the allied health workforce
- o health services provided to consumers by Exercise Physiology businesses can be funded by Medicare, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI), Comcare, State Government Workers' Compensation schemes, Private Health Insurance providers, national self-insured employers and other various insurance schemes (e.g. Compulsory Third Party and income protection schemes)

A search of the Australian Business Register (on 6 May 2018) reveals that there are 595 Type of Activity Units (TAUs) or producing units with active ABNs referencing 'exercise physiology' in their names. A total of 652 TAUs or producing units reference 'physiology' their names. There are likely to be many hundreds more businesses producing exercise physiology services without the name 'exercise physiology' in their business names.

ESSA would appreciate guidance on the minimum thresholds (e.g. turnover, number of people working in an industry) needed to establish new ANZSIC Classes. ESSA queries whether the 1993 economic significance limit for a minimum of \$200m turnover for Australia or employment of 3,500 for Australia has changed and if so, would appreciate the ABS reviewing the primary activities within Class 8539 Other Allied Health Services to determine if any of these primary activities have reached the current economic significance limit. The primary activity of exercise physiology service clearly exceeds the 1993 limit through the employment of more than 3,500 people.

- acknowledge the delivery of exercise science services in a distinct "exercise science centre operations" listing in the ANZSIC classification in Division R Arts and Recreation Services, Subdivision 91 Sports and Recreation Activities, Group 911 Sports and Physical Recreation Activities, Class 9111 Health and Fitness Centres and Gymnasia Operation

The current primary activities within the Class 9111 Health and Fitness Centres

and Gymnasia Operation (Fitness centre operation, Gymnasia operation and Health club operation) do not adequately allow for the many businesses engaged in providing exercise science services.

A search of the Australian Business Register (on 6 May 2018) reveals a total of 1,446 TAUs referencing 'exercise' in their names. Again, there are likely to be many hundreds more businesses producing exercise science services without the name 'exercise' in their business names.

As per the previous point, ESSA would appreciate the ABS reviewing the primary activities within Class 9111 Health and Fitness Centres and Gymnasia Operation to determine if any of these primary activities have reached the economic significance limit.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The ABS is the only trusted source of national workforce data in Australia that can be used to provide workforce figures for smaller geographical areas like regions and Local Government Areas.

This national data enables national agencies such as peak professional bodies like ESSA and peak industry bodies like Allied Health Professions Australia to monitor the impact of various public health policy and program initiatives in rural and remote areas compared to metropolitan areas and target services where needs are highest.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

ESSA supports minor changes to the Census form as below.

We ask that consideration be given to refining the wording of two questions:

o “In the main job held last week, was the person: Working for an employer/
Working in own business?”

Many Exercise Physiologists and Exercise Scientists may work for multiple employers as well as work in their own business or work as contractors. In other industries, people may be working for labour hire firms.

We propose the question be reworded as follows to give respondents multiple choices in answering:

“In the main job held last week, was the person: Working for one employer/working for two or more employers/working as a contractor/working for a labour hire business and /or working in own business?”

o “What best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person works?”

Exercise Physiologists and Exercise Scientists may work across multiple locations during each day. These locations can include a variety of institutional and community settings like aged care facilities, mental health facilities, open spaces like parks, fitness centres, sports facilities, client work places and client homes. In some cases, Exercise Physiologists and Exercise Scientists are using their own or other tele-health facilities to provide services to clients remotely.

In working across multiple locations, Exercise Physiologists and Exercise Scientists may work in a variety of sectors including hospitals, aged care, mental health, prisons and the juvenile detention system, high performance sport and exercise science.

The differentiating factor for Exercise Physiologists and Exercise Scientists is that they are assessing needs, prescribing and delivering exercise services to specialised and healthy populations.

We propose the question be reworded as follows:

“What best describes the industry or business of the employer, the industry or business the person is contracted to and/or the person’s own business at the location or locations where the person works?”

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Major changes are not required to the Census form apart from the response outline to Assessment criteria 3. Changes that ESSA supports are reviews to the ANZSIC and ANZSCO classifications so all data collected via the Census can be appropriately coded and analysed.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

ESSA’s proposed minor changes to the census questions as per Assessment criteria 3

- do not present major difficulties for coding the information

- do not require extensive processing
- do not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
- do not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
- do not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions.

Where substantive change should occur is to the ANZSCO and ANZSIC classifications to better reflect changes in Income and Work in time to ensure revised classifications can be used in the 2021 Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The need for time series data collected via the Census on the nature of work performed, the type of working arrangements and location/s of work will remain relevant in the future as more and more pressure is placed on the health sector and allied health sub sector to provide low cost, high value health services that enhance the well-being of the Australian population.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Reliable workforce data collected from individual households through the ABS Census provides the most comprehensive insights on the nature of work by all Australians.

The Census remains the most comprehensive data source on nature of work performed, the type of working arrangement and location of work.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Appendix 1: Background on the difference between exercise science, sports science and clinical exercise physiology and estimates of the total number of Exercise Scientists, Sports Scientists and Clinical Exercise Physiologists.

o Exercise science and sports science Bachelor degrees require a minimum of three years study at AQF Level 7 with the exercise science involving assessment and prescription of exercise for healthy people to prevent the development of health problems and sports science relating more specifically to working with high performance athletes. Sports science often involves additional post-graduate study.

o A degree in clinical exercise physiology is a minimum of four years study at AQF Level 7 which can include a post-graduate qualification. This degree equips the graduate to work in the allied health profession of exercise physiology. Exercise Physiologists have the skills and knowledge to prescribe exercise to help people who have clinical conditions including but not limited to

chronic disease (such as diabetes, heart disease); cancer, mental health conditions and to help people overcome musculoskeletal and neurological conditions and injuries. Exercise Physiologists also work with healthy people to prevent the development of health problems.

o ESSA's 2017 Graduation Destination Report showed that there were 16,671 exercise science, sports science and clinical exercise physiology students who graduated between 2006 to 2015 from any course that was registered in the Australian Government Department of Education 'Human Movement' Field of Education Code (069903), or any course with 'exercise science', 'sports science' or 'human movement' in the course name. (Reference: https://www.essa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Graduate-destination-report_final_LR.pdf)

o More than half of the Graduate Destination survey respondents were non-members (59%) and non-accredited (62%) with ESSA. The 747 graduates who completed the survey represented 3% of the total number of graduates and were considered representative of the total graduate population by the researchers conducting the study.

o If this trend is extrapolated applying the non-accredited percentage of survey respondents to the total number of graduates between 2006 to 2015, then there are an estimated 10,336 Exercise Scientists, Sports Scientists and Clinical Exercise Physiologists in addition to the over 5,000 professionals currently accredited with ESSA. This means that for every ESSA accredited professional during the period 2006-2015, there are twice as many unaccredited professionals. What this data does not reveal are the precise numbers of unaccredited professionals within each occupation.

o The most current data from 28 Australian university providers with either a full or provisional ESSA accreditation status (for their exercise science, sports science and clinical exercise physiology courses) offers more precise insights on the numbers of unaccredited professionals. These universities reported that there were just over 2,200 exercise science students who graduated in 2016. Of these, over 2,000 did not apply for ESSA accreditation because it is not needed to access the various payment schemes requiring accreditation. As a comparison, there was a 95% accreditation rate for exercise physiology students leaving around 30 graduates who did not pursue accreditation in 2016. With this in mind, there are a small number of additional exercise science courses delivered that are not accredited with ESSA which may further increase the number of non-accredited graduates. Specific to exercise

physiology, with 30 non-accrediting graduates in 2016 and 2017 respectively, an estimate of 200 non-accrediting graduates over the 2006-2017 period appears to be a conservative figure. (Reference: Exercise & Sports Science Australia [ESSA] accreditation records as at April 2018)

o Historically, ESSA membership across all categories including Exercise Physiologists has grown over 140% in ten years from 2008 to 2017 and as one example of that growth, the number of Accredited Exercise Physiologists grew 9.1% from 2016 to 2017. (Reference: Exercise & Sports Science Australia [ESSA] accreditation records as at April 2018)



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 673124884

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

National Disability Services

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Allied Health Professions Australia and Exercise and Sports Science Australia
Both have given consent to publication.

This submission is endorsed by:
Exercise and Sports Science Australia
Aged and Community Services Australia
Allied Health Professions Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission addresses how occupation and industry data collected in the

next and future censuses can be classified in a way that allows identification of the disability-related workforce. The issues it deals with need to be addressed via a review of the ANZSCO and ANZSIC classifications, conducted in time to ensure the revised classifications can be used in the 2021 Census.

The size and nature of the disability workforce is a major contemporary issue in Australia as the successful roll out of the new National Disability Insurance Scheme is dependent on the workforce growing significantly, including in regional and remote Australia. However, workforce planning and development is severely impeded by the fact that currently neither disability occupations nor disability as an industry is visible via ABS data collections. Of particular concern is the current difficulty in enumerating disability support workers and allied health professionals working in the disability sector.

Our submissions makes practical suggestions about how this can be remedied, but a review of the classifications would work out the finer details.

NDS would be happy to participate in any classification reviews undertaken prior to the next Census and to involve our members in such reviews.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The urgency of obtaining accurate quantitative information about Australia's workforce for disability is widely acknowledged. If we cannot ascertain how many people work in disability services in different parts of the country, or details such as their earnings, employment status and hours of work, workforce planning to meet the needs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is difficult for governments and industry stakeholders alike.

In 2011, the Productivity Commission's landmark report that mapped out disability service reform in Australia noted that estimates of workforce size varied considerably:

The precise number of workers in the sector is not known. The most reliable estimate is around 70 000 employees (and around 34 000 full-time equivalents). Some other estimates suggest double the number of full-time equivalent employees (Disability Care and Support, 2011, page 693).

It predicted that the workforce would need to double to meet the expanded needs of people with disability in Australia. However, it remains impossible to tell how much the workforce has grown, since the Productivity Commission relied primarily on a one-off survey conducted in 2010.

The availability of the workforce does appear to be constraining NDIS implementation. NDIS market surveys and NDIS's own Workforce Wizard data indicate parts of the country and types of jobs which are particularly difficult to fill. In 2018, the final report from the three-year Evaluation of the NDIS, found: Despite these changes [to the service profile], the supply of disability supports is not growing sufficiently to meet the additional demand created by the NDIS. As a consequence of these issues, many NDIS participants and their carers experienced continuing difficulties in accessing disability supports for which

they receive NDIS funding (page xv)...

But the inability to accurately assess the size or profile of the disability workforce is a major barrier to understanding the workforce dynamics associated with the Scheme. While the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers was reviewed and updated to be purpose-designed for the Scheme, ABS instruments for the collection of workforce data have not been, and are still not suitable, seven years after the Productivity Commission's first report highlighting the problem.

Inappropriate classification schemes

The classifications used in the Census and other ABS data collections are at the heart of the disability workforce data challenges. The ANZSIC (industry) and ANZSCO (occupation) classifications are insufficiently detailed to isolate people working in disability services. They reflect an Australia economy from a time when the social care industries were much smaller and less significant from either a workforce or social wellbeing perspective. Jobs which have become large scale sites of employment, and will continue to grow quickly, are lumped together in 'other' and residual categories while jobs in declining parts of the economy remain individually defined with detailed distinctions. An important disability profession (exercise physiologist) is mis-classified and cannot be enumerated (see Appendix).

This problem also affects the aged services industry because one of the key occupational classes currently conflates aged and disability workers (Class 4231 'aged and disabled carer').

The problem compounds since the ABS classifications also inform classifications used in other surveys and administrative collections. The longitudinal Household, Industry and Labour Force Australia (HILDA) survey, for example, has become a useful complement to ABS surveys, offering the additional ability to track populations over time. However, since it also relies on standard ABS classifications, the same difficulties arise when seeking to isolate disability (in addition to sampling and other issues). The Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS), the data standard for the National VET Provider Collection, provides a wealth of information about students, courses and qualifications, but also relies in part on ABS's classification standards.

Details about the classification problems for the disability sector are explained more fully in the Appendix.

Terminology

Another issue is the use of the term 'disability carer' in ANZSCO. A more appropriate term would be 'disability support worker', given the disability sector's emphasis on self-determination and choice for people with disability.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The ABS is the only source of workforce-related data in Australia when analysis at the regional level is required, and where other characteristics such as birthplace, language and immigration status are important. Cross-comparison with other Census questions such as that on the disability population is often very useful, as is the contrast between workplace and home address found in the Census but not elsewhere.

While the NDIS rollout is national, it is proceeding at a different pace in different parts of the country and in rural and remote as opposed to metropolitan regions.

Markets are also responding very differently. For example, in the Coffs Harbour/Grafton SA4 area, we estimate there are roughly 18 community based aged and disabled carers for each 1,000 people in the target NDIS population, while in Parramatta SA4 there are 11 and in the Inner South West, just 7 (note this relies on estimating the number working in disability as opposed to aged care).

The National Health Workforce Dataset does collect accurate data for the registered professions. But it is not currently easy to identify people working in disability. The data set classify workplace using the concept of the 'principal setting' in which the professional delivers services. The unit is the professional, not the organisation as in the industry classification. While 'disability institution' is of value in the registered professionals dataset, it appears to be unevenly recorded, and as practitioners can list several settings it is not possible to identify a trend year to year.

Several key disability professions, such as speech pathologists and audiologists, are not registered and therefore not included in the Health Workforce Dataset. In the clinical students database, disability is not recorded.

See also Criterion 7.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Major change is not required to the Census form since the matters dealt with here mainly go to the analysis and coding of the data collected.

However, consideration should be given to refining the wording of the two questions below concerning industry, occupation and employment status.

These are:

1. What best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person usually works?

2. What are the main goods produced or services provided by the employer's business?

NDS believes that these questions may not sufficiently speak to a number of workforce trends taking place in our sector:

- many disability workers work at several locations during a day or week, which can include a range of client homes and community facilities
 - as client self-management of funded plans under the NDIS increases, more disability workers are working on a self-employed basis – as individual contractors
 - the employer's business may be multi-stream – including aged care, child care, disability, foster care services, criminal justice support and other areas.
- Increasingly, what distinguishes someone occupationally as a disability worker is that they are providing support services to a person with disability – not working for a disability provider.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As noted above, major change is not required to the Census form since the matters dealt with here go mainly to the analysis and coding of the data collected. The issues raised above could perhaps be dealt with via respondent instructions.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As noted above, major change is not required to the Census form since the matters dealt with here go to the analysis and coding of the data collected. However, modifying the industry and occupation classifications would inevitably produce benefits for other parts of the service industries. If the ABS began to provide workforce information about disability and other social care industries, there would be efficiency gains for government (through better targeted funding and industry stakeholders (though improved workforce planning)).

In short:

- the topic will not present major difficulties for coding the information
- the topic will not require extensive processing, once the review has been conducted and recommendations implemented
- the topic will not add to the overall cost of the Census
- the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
- the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This is a continuing and long-term need to update and improve disability workforce data in Australia.

The social care workforce is projected to grow quickly over the next decade and beyond. The occupational group 'Carers and Aides' (ANZSCO code 42) is projected by the Department of Jobs and Small Business to grow by 27 per cent in the period 2017 to 2022. This compares to 8 per cent for the Australian workforce as a whole.

The growing proportion of the workforce employed in the disability sector and other social assistance industries warrants a more granular approach to these industries.

The significant change to the workforce due to the transition to the NDIS will impact beyond full scheme roll-out e.g. the shift from a workforce employed by service providers to part of the workforce directly employed by service users. These trends need to be monitored to effectively influence policy and workforce planning

There is significant government investment in the disability workforce as it is being recognised as one of the key elements to success of the NDIS. Long term effects of this investment need to be monitored.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

NDS collects quarterly data from disability providers about their workforce. This

provides useful trend data, but does not cover everyone in the industry. See [here](#) the biannual Australian Disability Workforce Report.

Although we feel that the sample of workers we cover (currently nearly 45,000) is significant, and the trend data reliable, until there is accurate workforce population data (provided by the ABS Census) we are not able to ascertain the proportion of the workforce covered.

A household survey is particularly appropriate tool for collecting disability workforce data because, as noted above, there is increasing diversity in how disability workers are employed and for whom they work.

The NDIS specifically encourages people with disability and their families to self-manage their funding packages, including the direct employment of workers. Currently over 20 per cent of NDIS clients partially or fully self-manage, and in these cases, workers may be directly engaged as independent contractors or employees, employed through agencies or digital platforms such as HireUp.

Only a household survey (as opposed to a collection of data from employers) can cover the broad range of employment settings that increasingly characterise the disability sector.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

In published data, the ABS currently aggregates speech pathologists and audiologists in the unit group 2527. Two separate occupations are listed in ANZSCO within the unit group, but are never reported separately.

It should be noted that there is no separate source of enumeration for speech pathologists and audiologists as they are not professions registered and counted in the Health Workforce dataset.

It is important for disability and health workforce planning and development

purposes to be able to view separately the features of two separate professions.

ABS industry classification – ANZSIC

Within the ANZSIC classification, the most relevant industry category for the disability sector is a residual category, Other Social Assistance Services (Class 8790, in which 158,232 people worked at the time of the 2016 Census). The ANZSIC structure is generally based on the primary activity of the industry. But this does not apply in residual categories that are made up of industries left over from other groupings. As well as 'disabilities assistance service' and 'adult day care centre operation', Class 8790 includes the following organisations, most of which are unrelated to disability services:

- adoption service
- aged care assistance service
- alcoholics anonymous operation
- marriage guidance service
- operation of soup kitchen (including mobile)
- welfare counselling service
- youth welfare service.

Another relevant class is Other Residential Care Services (Class 8609).

However, as well as 'Respite residential care operation' this class includes:

- children's home operation
- community mental health hostel
- crisis care accommodation operation
- hospice operation
- residential refuge operation.

Many sectors are hard to locate in ABS classifications, but disability services are particularly obscured by being categorised with dissimilar services. This is deeply problematic in a fast-growing industry that is a rapid generator of new jobs around the country.

The two main industry classes containing disability services are both 'other' and residual classes. Sectors likely to be much smaller than disability services are individually distinguished in the ANZSIC classification, for example (numbers employed in 2016 are shown):

- Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging Services 42,188 people employed
- Psychiatric Hospitals 7,183 people employed

Both Other residential services and Other social assistance services need to be disaggregated and larger groupings within them awarded their own 4 digit code.

ABS occupational classification – ANZSCO

Similar issues prevent the statistical isolation of occupations of relevance to disability. The Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

(ANZSCO) is, however, a more detailed classification (with a six-digit rather than four-digit structure as in ANZSIC) so that the problems are potentially more easily remedied.

Aged and disabled carers are included in the same class (4231) which has approximately 132,000 people. The class could be simply split into aged carers and disability carers (a five-digit code would be used, in common with other parts of ANZSCO).

Combined with the occupation 'Disabilities Service Officer' within the Welfare Support Worker classification this would start to give a better picture of the disability support workforce. This occupation (and others within this broad classification) should be given their own codes.

411711 Community Worker

411712 Disabilities Services Officer

411713 Family Support Worker

411714 Parole or Probation Officer

411715 Residential Care Officer

411716 Youth Worker

Allied health classification problem – misclassification of exercise physiologist
Allied health professionals who work in disability are difficult to isolate, since many work across several settings.

However, an unnecessary additional obstruction currently is the mis-location of exercise physiologists, currently grouped with Natural and Physical Science Professionals not elsewhere classified (unit group 234999). In this unit group they are wrongly classified with the following occupations:

Ceramics Scientist

Mineral Processing Engineer

Polymer Scientist

Sports Scientist

They should instead be grouped with Other Allied Health professionals, or in a newly created unit group.

Exercise and Sports Science Australia reports that their membership has been growing in recent years, and that Accredited Exercise Physiologists grew 9 per cent from 2016 to 2017. NDS is aware that this group is in demand under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 250969167

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Include unanswered questions Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- National Disability Services (NDS)
- Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission is intended to support separate submissions by Exercise and

Sports Science Australia (ESSA) and National Disability Services (NDS). It argues that changes are needed to the classification of exercise physiologists and sports scientists and also argues for better categorisation of allied health professions, including speech pathology and audiology, and more nuanced questioning to ensure that workforce data can be collected about the disability-related workforce.

The issues it deals with need to be developed via a review of the ANZSCO and ANZSIC classifications, conducted in time to ensure the revised classifications can be used in the 2021 Census.

The issues mentioned have a range of consequences including My Health Record provider registration issues and workforce planning and development limitations. The latter is a key issue as currently neither disability occupations nor disability as an industry is visible via ABS data collections. Of particular concern is the current difficulty in enumerating disability support workers and allied health professionals working in the disability sector.

Our submission offers suggestions as to how the data collection issues in the next Census could be enhanced by changes to the ANZSCO and ANZSIC classifications. We note that the implementation of these changes will also improve other ABS Collections like 4364.0.55.002 - Health Service Usage and Health Related Actions, Australia, 2014-15 which relies on these classifications to survey the population on their health service usage (e.g. consultations with health professionals).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☐ Location

☐ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) believes that accurate data is essential to support policy development, workforce planning and overall monitoring of the use of health and health-related services, including disability services. One of the key challenges for AHPA and government bodies is access to accurate quantitative data about the Australian health and disability allied health workforces. Current limitations on the information that is collected mean that data about earnings, employment status, hours of work and areas of work are severely limited. This significantly impacts the effectiveness of workforce planning in key areas such as service availability for participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We note that the 2011 Productivity Commission report on disability service reform in Australia highlighted the high degree of variance in the estimates in the size of the disability workforce. We also note that limited access to reliable information about the allied health workforce impacts on the work of Primary Health Networks and their ability to undertake planning around community needs.

Accurate data about the allied health disability workforce is a particular priority

given the degree of growth expected to be required to meet the needs of people with disability under the NDIS. Estimates by the NDIS suggest the workforce will need to double to meet those needs. Without changes to our ability to access data, it will be impossible to determine how and if the workforce is growing. This will exacerbate current issues around NDIS implementation. A 2018 published report based on the three-year Evaluation of the NDIS, found that the supply of disability supports is not growing sufficiently to meet the additional demand created by the NDIS. As a consequence of these issues, many NDIS participants and their carers experienced continuing difficulties in accessing disability supports. Without the ability to accurately assess the size and profile of the disability workforce, it will continue to be difficult to evaluate the provider workforce and where key gaps lie.

AHPA notes that the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers was reviewed and updated to be purpose-designed for the Scheme, however we also note that the ABS instruments for the collection of workforce data have not been updated and remain unsuitable seven years after the Productivity Commission highlighted the problem.

The current classifications used in the Census and other ABS data collections are both inaccurate or inappropriate in the case of exercise and sports science and insufficiently detailed for other professions to isolate people working in disability services. ANZSIC (industry) and ANZSCO (occupation) classifications remain based on old understandings of the work of allied health practitioners and areas of work that have become large scale sites of employment, and will continue to grow quickly, remain lumped together in 'other' and residual categories while jobs in declining parts of the economy remain individually defined with detailed distinctions.

The impact of this is exacerbated by the use of ABS classifications for a range of other surveys and administrative categorisations used by government. The longitudinal Household, Industry and Labour Force Australia (HILDA) survey, for example, has become a useful complement to ABS surveys, offering the additional ability to track populations over time. However, since it also relies on standard ABS classifications, the same difficulties arise when seeking to isolate disability (in addition to sampling and other issues). The Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS), the data standard for the National VET Provider Collection, provides a wealth of information about students, courses and qualifications, but also relies in part on ABS's classification standards.

Allied health professionals who work in disability are difficult to isolate, since many work across several settings. However, an unnecessary additional complication currently is the mis-location of exercise physiologists, currently grouped with Natural and Physical Science Professionals not elsewhere classified (unit group 234999). In this unit group they are wrongly classified with the following occupations:

- Ceramics Scientist
- Mineral Processing Engineer
- Polymer Scientist
- Sports Scientist

Exercise physiologists should be included within ANZSIC classification in Division Q – Health Care and Social Assistance, Subdivision 85 Medical and Other Health Care Services, Class 8539 Other Allied Health Services to reflect its place within the allied health sub sector and health industry. There should also be a listing in the ANZSIC classification in Division R Arts and Recreation Services, Subdivision 91 Sports and Recreation Activities, Group 911 Sports and Physical Recreation Activities, Class 9111 Health and Fitness Centres and Gymnasia Operation as the current primary activities within the Class 9111 Health and Fitness Centres and Gymnasia Operation (Fitness centre operation, Gymnasia operation and Health club operation) do not adequately allow for the many businesses engaged in providing exercise science services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The ABS is the only source of workforce-related data in Australia when analysis at the sub-state and Local Government Area (LGA) level is required and where other characteristics such as birthplace, language, immigration status, size of the disability population, comparisons between workplace and home address can be cross-referenced and used to enhance understanding of the size, structure and characteristics of the allied health workforce.

This national data enables national agencies and peak professional bodies to monitor the impact of various public health policy and program initiatives in rural and remote areas compared to metropolitan areas and target services

where needs are highest.

AHPA notes that the National Health Workforce Dataset does collect accurate data for registered professionals. However, non-registered professionals are not included and it is not currently easy to identify people working in disability. The data set classifies workplace using the concept of the 'principal setting' in which the professional delivers services. This can be limiting when a professional works across a range of settings, or where professionals work across a range of organisations.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

AHPA believes that only minor changes are required and that these will not significantly impact on the ability of respondents to understand and respond. Our requests primarily focus on the analysis and coding of data.

The questions AHPA would like to see changed are:

1. What best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person usually works?
2. What are the main goods produced or services provided by the employer's business?
3. In the main job held last week, was the person: Working for an employer/
Working in own business?

AHPA believes some changes are required to ensure that these questions account for the fact that many allied health professionals work at a range of locations during a day or week, which can include private practices, client homes, community facilities, hospitals, aged care facilities and sports facilities. Allied health practitioners also frequently work across a range of sectors such as health, aged care, disability, mental health, prisons and the juvenile detention system, high performance sport and exercise science. Reducing these to a single category is likely to result in highly inaccurate data about the different workforces for each industry area/sector.

Questions also need to account for the very common scenario under which allied health professionals may work for multiple employers as well as work in their own business or work as contractors. One option may be to re-word the questions to provide a more detailed response using a multiple choice response. For example, question 3 could be rephrased as:

“In the main job held last week, was the person:

1. Working for one employer
2. Working for two or more employers
3. Working as a contractor
4. Working in their own business?”

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

AHPA does not believe that the changes to the Census form outlined in the previous section are likely to require additional consideration or are likely to be the cause for objection.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

AHPA does not believe that the changes proposed are likely to significantly decrease the efficiency of collection. Any additional complexity arising from the changes proposed are likely to be minor and will not require significant additional processing. Any minor decreases in efficiency are heavily outweighed by the increased effectiveness of the data.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The need for time series data collected via the Census on the nature of work performed, the type of working arrangements and location/s of work will remain relevant in the future as more and more pressure is placed on the health sector and allied health sub sector to provide low cost, high value health services that enhance the wellbeing of the Australian population.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

AHPA notes that while a range of peak and industry bodies as well as government and non-government agencies undertake surveys and otherwise attempt to model data about the allied health workforce, these surveys are limited by their response rate and the range of providers that they cover. As such AHPA believes there are no other alternative data sources or solutions that provide the data that the household survey can provide. AHPA believes that reliable workforce data collected from individual households through the ABS Census provides the most comprehensive overview of the nature of work done by allied health providers, the type of working arrangements they have and their location of work.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

AHPA notes that the ABS currently aggregates speech pathologists and audiologists in the unit group 2527. While the occupations are listed separately by ANZSCO within the unit group, they are not published as such. This is a significant issue as the scopes of practice of both professions are completely different and there is no other source of data about the two professions as they are not currently counted in the Health Workforce dataset.

AHPA also notes that the use of the term 'disability carer' in ANZSCO is inaccurate and doesn't match use elsewhere resulting in confusion between paid and unpaid services. A more appropriate term would be 'disability support worker'.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 669788622

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

1

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

ANU

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

None

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Separating non-profit from for-profit in your private sector employment

classification

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☒ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The fact that the data collected currently means that one cannot distinguish between workers employed in the for-profit compared to the non-profit sector means that policies relating to employment cannot easily distinguish between them. The non-profit sector is a rapidly growing sector and in the area of research I do, on Aboriginal community-based organisations, it is impossible to know how many people that sector employs. Yet it is a very important sector from what we can piece together in terms of Aboriginal employment. But the same is true in relation to the non-profit sector generally. The Productivity Commission has done considerable work on the NFP sector in Australia and it would be useful to talk to them about this blurring of lines when this sector is lumped together with the business sector.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As mentioned above, in my case the interest relates specifically to Aboriginal employment.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It would be very easy to collect as people know whether they are working for a profit making company or a not-for-profit organisation. The test would be whether a dividend is provided to shareholders or profit is held by individuals (in a private business) as against re-invested in the program of the organisation or the community.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This would not be controversial. offensive or intrusive , and it could be accurately answered

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The coding would be simple - only 2 options instead of one previously . It would just expand public vs private to add the third sector - not for profit.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is likely to have ongoing relevance in policy & research terms.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I have not seen any other data source which collects the information accurately and 5-yearly to track changes over time in employment in the not for profit sector. You could check with the Productivity Commission.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This matter came up at a public seminar at the ANU where an ABS official was present and he recommended that I should make this submission. Apologies that I do not have time to research it thoroughly right now but it is something that has troubled me for many years, and I do not know why this distinction has never been made.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 947174132

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Time to drop the religion question? The trend is evident. If it is an important cultural marker, a Social Survey module is the right vehicle picking up on belief in God, church attendance, observance of rites, feast days, volunteering etc. Table Builder Basic wont allow cross tabulations of religious affiliation to something policy relevant such as type of educational institution attending so what is the purpose of the question? It may be interesting to some, but so is AFL/NRL/A-League affiliation to others and there is no good policy reason to start collecting that information. It has been a long time since Colonial Censuses asked the religion question to allocate grants for church building. In those days there was little other opportunity for community than involvement in Church. It was a time when education was available to only the few and church filled in a lot of gaps. The Anglican Church in Tasmania is in the process of selling church buildings and the Catholics will undoubtedly follow suit. I submit this in the belief that dropping the item would be a positive outcome in an area of Australian life that is often divisive. I would be interested to see a demonstration of how the information - as currently collected - is actually used to improve decision making in the areas of Health, Education and Welfare .

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)



- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 32964530

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The transport to work question is probably better as two questions.
1. Which form of transport did you most use (eg walking, driving etc.)
2. To where did you spend most time commuting (eg. work, school etc.)

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The transport to work question could better be utilised as two questions.

1. What was your most common form of transport? (eg. driving, public transport)

2. To where did you spend most time commuting (eg work, school)

This way the forms of transport people use will be less restricted, and there will be a better idea of what forms of transport are being used and where.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The questions I have proposed would better encompass the whole population, not just the working population.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The questions I have proposed would be simple for a household to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

While more comprehensive than the current questions, it is not intrusive. Options need to be made available for pedestrian transport that is not walking, for example use of mobility devices.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

I do not know if this will have a large financial impact on the census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This data is important for public transport routing, possible bike paths, and road

works. It is very important and likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I do not know which other data sources may exist. I know the questions I am proposing are an extension on already asked questions.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 279566173

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I would like to see travel to education included in the Census. This information would be very useful as it would allow facilities at educational providers to be created to accommodate e.g. more care spaces, bus shelters.
It would also inform education providers about their catchment. What is the SEIFA of the drawing area?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☐ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☐ Highest non-school qualification



Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to inform strategy and planning.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A simple question about which suburb your education provider is located

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question is unobtrusive as it would seem quite general, the location of education.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series because it will allow trends to be established. it would identify geographical locations which are education hubs. Resources could be allocated and shared amongst providers in a location e.g. buses and other public transport

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet

the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no source of data that collates this information. Educational providers may know the suburb location of their student but they may not know how they travel to the location. some younger students may live at 2 addresses due to family splits.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 202707278

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Gathering data on how people have changed their travel options since the last census. If people have changed their travel from car to train, then this data can be analysed by location to see the direct impact of new infrastructure or changes to public transport options.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐

- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is used to support policy development and planning for future infrastructure projects.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data is enhanced by combining with location data where new infrastructure has been implemented

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is easy to understand and answer. The questions could be "Have you changed your mode of travel since the last census?"

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is an extension of existing questions and would not be viewed as too invasive or offensive

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic is an extension of existing questions and will not impact the efficiency or timing of data collection.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Analysing the rolling change of mode of transport could be a very important analysis of the effectiveness of new infrastructure

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Existing data does not go into the detail that a census will in relation to location, household type or linking to major infrastructure



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 552646186

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Mandurah

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Industry of Employment

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Industry of Employment

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

'Industry of Employment' data should have a specific category for 'Tourism'.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

'Industry of Employment' data should include 'Tourism'

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

'Industry of Employment' data should include 'Tourism'

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

'Industry of Employment' data should include 'Tourism'

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

'Industry of Employment' data should include 'Tourism'

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

'Industry of Employment' data should include 'Tourism'

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

'Industry of Employment' data should include 'Tourism'

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Please continue to include the 'LGA' dataset in Census data collection, as this is critical for local government data collection.

Please endeavour to ensure (as far as practicable) that ABS Census data is NOT used by Australian Government agencies to determine funding program eligibility (e.g. Building Better Regions Fund, Regional Growth Fund). The use of ABS Census data by government agencies to determine the 'regional' status of local governments has created major challenges for regional local governments in Western Australia.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1073219593

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Working in the disability inclusion / access space, I have not found the Census data useful for my work. It doesn't tell us anything about the particular disability, or more relevant, access needs of residents. "Assistance with daily living" is incredibly ambiguous, and my recollection (this may be hazy though!) from last census was that it didn't make clear different age categories: my four year old requires "assistance with daily living", but his needs are vastly different to my 21 year old niece who uses a wheelchair and cannot communicate verbally.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

"Need for assistance" is too ambiguous - it doesn't elaborate the possible types of assistance, whether or not that assistance is age-appropriate, and how much assistance. (Need for a cane to lean on when walking is quite different from needing an electric wheelchair and hydraulic hoist because you are a quadriplegic....).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

We need much more specific and better data which would greatly inform better delivery of National Disability Insurance Scheme (rather than the previous hodge-podge of information from state based disability systems), and could be used by Local Governments to better understand the disability data of their particular region in order to best plan delivery of accessible infrastructure.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A questions could be formulated about disability type, or functional impact of disability (such as in NDIS assessments), or asking if the person is an NDIS participant.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 538064660

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Superannuation status

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Retirement

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Superannuation data is needed to support policy development, for example so that Treasury can make more accurate forecasts of tax revenue.

Superannuation data, when combined with income data, can be used for research purposes.

Superannuation data can be used to identify particular industries, geographical areas, or ethnic groups with poor take-up of superannuation warranting further investigation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of the superannuation data is enhanced when compared with other characteristics, such as age and sex.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Those respondents who do have superannuation could be asked what kind of superannuation fund(s) they had and what phase the super fund was in (e.g. contributing, preserved, pension, or reversionary pension).

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I believe that the topic of superannuation would be acceptable to most respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Most people will have only one or two superannuation funds. Some elderly people will have no superannuation at all, so they will not find it difficult to answer the question. It would need only two questions: "what super fund(s) do you belong to", and, for each fund, "what is the status of that fund".

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It would be useful to be able to track the uptake of superannuation as time goes on. It would also be useful to be able to identify changes in the type of superannuation that people have - over time the defined benefit schemes will disappear and it is possible that new forms of superannuation or annuity schemes might appear.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Australian Taxation Office does have data about superannuation status of Australia-based superannuation funds, but would have limited data about foreign-based superannuation schemes that some Australian residents might belong to, as a result of previous employment overseas. To obtain income data about all those who had a particular type of superannuation, e.g. a self-managed superannuation fund, would require an extensive and probably error-prone data matching exercise. It would be easier and cheaper to collect the data through the Census.

In addition, if data about the total income of retired Commonwealth public servants were available, it would be possible to obtain a better estimate of the likely cost of providing better indexation of their pensions (currently indexed by the CPI). Recently, the head of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, Peter Carigy-Ryan, admitted that that it was "virtually impossible to assess Commonwealth defined benefit pensioners' income". No doubt other superannuation schemes would like to know more about their customers.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please

comment below.

Further comments

I am a retired public servant who worked in the ABS for over thirty years. After I retired, I have been a member of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officer's Association and have only recently retired as its president.

Up to now, the Census has concentrated on getting data about the working age population. With the ongoing ageing of the population, there will be a greater need for data about older people, such as access to superannuation and access to other pensions.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 463287730

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Government pensions and allowances (both Australian and foreign)

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships
- ☐ Marital status
- ☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☐ Other/unknown

Topics on Income and work

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☐

- ☐ Hours worked
- ☐ Self employed - number of employees
- ☐ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Government pension data, both Australian and foreign, is needed for policy development and planning purposes. For example, there are many migrants from the UK who are receiving fixed UK pensions in Australia, whereas if they had migrated to some other country, such as the USA, their pensions would have been indexed. Perhaps if the Australian government knew the true extent of the problem, they might be more inclined to do something about it and save money for the Australian taxpayer.

It would also be very useful for monitoring the efficiency of our present system of providing assistance to older people. In particular, it would make it possible to identify areas where there was a need for more housing for low-income elderly people.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data could be used to identify small population groups that perhaps should be accessing government pensions but were failing to do so (e.g. recent migrants).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It would be a simple matter to provide a list of the various Centrelink pensions and allowances and a few of the more common overseas pensions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Most respondents would not mind admitting that they receive a pension or allowance.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

There would not be many response categories.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic will remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data about Centrelink pensions and allowances is held by Centrelink, and Centrelink can match their data with ATO data. However, neither Centrelink nor the ATO has all the other demographic data, and the robo-debt data matching does not seem to have been very successful.

It would be very useful to collect data about Centrelink pensions and allowances at the population level in the Census for research purposes, such as evaluating the success or otherwise of the present superannuation system in reducing the amount of money being spent on the age pension.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This topic will allow researchers to obtain a more complete picture of the sources of household income.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 750030079

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Journey to work data

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is used to inform local and regional traffic and transport modelling and analysis.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is important that this information is collected for all geographic areas and population groups.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Historically I would say that the questions in relation to journey to work data

have been simple and easy to understand and respond too.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I would assume that the journey to work questions have not been a major concern for people in the past.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

I'm not sure what the imposition on the ABS was to collect and analyze this information in the past.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes most definitely. Traffic and transport planners need to analyse these trends over time to inform modeling, planning and policy development.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Not at the National level

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 305127939

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

SA Pharmacy

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

To obtain more information on health:

- BMI (Weight and Height)

- Number of prescribed medication currently taking

o If >0, multiple selection of source:

Public hospital pharmacy

Private hospital pharmacy

Local pharmacy

Discounted chemist

Online ordering

- Number of supplements currently taking

o If >0, multiple selection of source:

Local pharmacy

Discounted chemist

Online ordering

- Currently seen by Outpatient clinics?

o If yes, multiple selection of source:

Public Hospital

Private Hospital

GP Plus

Other

- Currently on a specialist waiting list? If yes, which specialist (from a public or private healthcare provider)?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, service planning or service monitoring

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered offensive

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

None that we can think of



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 524618809

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission covers a number of Census topics, and is provided to provide additional clarification and evidence to support local government policy and planning decisions.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

1) Suggest including a question asking respondents to identify both their sex and gender.

Local government is tasked with supporting local communities to improve the liveability of the region under their jurisdiction.

Including just one or the other of sex or gender limits the ability to target programs to specific needs, and makes it difficult to differentiate between a resident's biological structure, and the gender with which they identify.

With multiple local governments across Australia, access to this information may potentially be used nationally to design programs to better support residents.

2) Similar to 1) above, suggest including question regarding a respondent's sexual orientation – LGBTQIA - for the same reasons.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The topic of gender and sexual orientation is one that has been trending 'up' in the last 20 years.

By better recording the changes in people's identity for specific areas, and comparing to the average for the nation, there is the ability to identify the attractors and detractors that classify small areas. This in turn allows business and government to tailor efforts to better support minority groups.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The current question regarding 'sex' of respondent can be easily augmented

with the addition of a question on 'gender'. If necessary, an explanation can be provided defining the difference between the two topic items.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Respondents always have the option of answering or not answering specific questions.

The growing acceptance and identification of 'other' sexual orientations in society means the question will become less intrusive or offensive in successive Censuses.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The efficiency of the processing of the addition of 'gender' to the Census questions is dependant on how the question is asked. While providing options to identify as any of the LGBTQIA spectrum would ultimately be informative, if necessary it could be reduced to a limited number of options.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is growing acceptance of 'different' gender alignments and sexual orientations. Time series data would provide evidence not so much for the changing orientations, but the growing recognition and acceptance.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 332255931

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Households - new household types require recording for better understanding of residents and relationships with local government areas.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Household and family relationships
- ☒ Marital status
- ☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Households in which parents have separated create complexities in household structures.

Mixed and blended families, and children moving between households, create household structures that are currently not well understood.

A better understanding of the movements of children between households could be then matched with better programs to support these families, and better understanding of the housing needs of specific areas.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A question capturing number of children not present in the household on Census night can be easily included and understood by the respondent.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is assumed that the question would not be an issue for respondents. In what is assumed to be a very small proportion of households, the information may be sensitive or not legally allowed to be divulged. These respondents would refrain from answering the question.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The question of including additional children not present on Census night is simple - for example "Number of children usually present, but not living with respondent as of 10 August 2021."

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This information may be available via Family Tax Benefit, Child Care Benefits, etc.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1044039562

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Suggested additional questions relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait theme, including language spoken and active involvement in native culture.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

There are many complexities regarding the appropriate recording of demographic data related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. While a small proportion of people identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island, a smaller proportion both identify and are involved in actively supporting and protecting their culture. While the proportions are small, the needs are large, and collecting data on practicing numbers helps in allocation of funds, and the types of programs

designed to support indigenous culture.

Similarly, identifying indigenous languages spoken provides a better understanding of needs, which can then be matched with better programs to support these residents, and connect them with others with similar traits.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people remain small compared to total populations. However, the needs are large, and collecting data on practicing numbers and languages used helps in allocation of funds, and the types of programs designed to support indigenous culture.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Questions regarding language spoken, and involvement in indigenous culture, are simple questions to ask. Due to the number of potential languages, it would

be preferable to leave this as an open ended question, rather than list the 10 (?) most common languages.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

For those respondents who relate to questions of indigenous involvement and language, the questions would be welcome. For those who do not, they can simply 'move on' to other questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The question of how well Australia is protecting its indigenous heritage will continue (whether there is growth or decline). The collection of data over time is valuable.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data may be collected through other means, but not comprehensively or regularly.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 343466780

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Additional information regrading housing, number of houses owned by respondent, and levels of mortgage being paid.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- ☒ Structure and types of dwellings
- ☒ Homelessness
- ☐ Housing costs
- ☒

☐ Number of bedrooms

☐ Internet access

☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Number of houses owned

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Local governments have a responsibility to ensure there is an appropriate number, mix and diversity of dwellings to suit a range of resident needs. In order to target housing policy most effectively, it would be useful to know whether people paying a mortgage are paying off their own owner occupier home, or paying off an investment property. It would also be useful to know the mix of ownership within the local government area - ie whether a small number of people own the majority of housing in an area, or whether each dwelling is owned by a different entity. This can influence the way local government promotes housing choices and sustainability initiatives.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 360977156

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

To better capture housing ownership, request improvements to the landlord type question to differentiate between public, government and community housing.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- ☒ Structure and types of dwellings
- ☒ Homelessness
- ☒ Housing costs
- ☒

☐ Number of bedrooms

☐ Internet access

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Local government provides advocacy to State and Federal governments on the mix of social housing within the government jurisdiction.

For rental dwellings, the present landlord type is limited to private or social housing. It would assist in designing programs and policies to have a more detailed understanding of social housing - whether it be public, government or community housing.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

There is a valid question regarding if the respondent completing the Census questions is clear on whether their housing is public, government or community housing. The specific nuances may not be evident to the renter.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The management of those respondents who reside in social housing is an ongoing issue for all levels of government. The ability to track changes over time helps provide an indication of whether housing difficulties are increasing or decreasing, and how successive governments are successfully dealing with the issues of housing for all.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data on the types and proportions of social housing are difficult to obtain. Census results would provide 5 yearly snapshots of changes.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 54257692

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group



☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Non Government Organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Multicultural Development Australia Ltd.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

National Standards for Cultural and Language Diversity
Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☐ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☒ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☒ Proficiency in spoken English

☐

Ancestry

☐

Other/unknown

If other please specify

Ethnicity

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Please see our submission.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

'Ethnicity' is self-identified and therefore easy to collect. It also focuses on

current identification rather than identification of ancestors or fore bearers as in the 'ancestry' question.

There is a preference internationally in comparable countries to Australia for the collection of 'ethnicity' as a primary indicator of cultural diversity. Ethnicity is a multifaceted quality that refers to the group to which people belong, and/or are perceived to belong, as a result of certain shared characteristics. Both the New Zealand and Australian definitions of ethnicity involve a social construct of group affiliation and identity and both are based on self-identification (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2005; Ministry of Health, 2004). However, in Australia ethnicity is rarely collected and is not an indicator in the Standards for Statistics on CALD.

In Australia, given the propensity to use one indicator for CALD (see our submission for more information about the failure of the Standards for Statistics on CALD to be implemented in Australia by all levels of Government), ethnicity would be a more reliable indicator than country of birth - which is the current practice. The advantages of using ethnicity as a single indicator include being able to capture the following groups:

- children born in Australia but brought up in a non-English speaking cultural environment;
- ethnic minorities who migrated from countries such as New Zealand, UK, and USA who affiliate with their cultural background and ethnicity; and
- ethnic minorities who can only be identified by ethnicity or sometimes language, for example refugees who were persecuted because of their ethnicity (e.g. Karen born in Thailand).

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

'Ethnicity' is an easy to understand concept as it is subjective and requires self-identification.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Coding already exists in the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups. Please see our submission for more information.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The cultural diversity of Australia is growing. Immigration is likely to continue

and therefore there is an ongoing need for data on this topic.

Country of birth is a poor indicator for ethnicity or ethnic affiliation where migration is common - this is the case for Australia.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

n/a

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Please refer to our full submission for the data and practice that supports our submission. Thank you.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KEG-XKVV-Z.docx](#)

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 273429919

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Private business but our clients are mainly local government around Australia, so this feedback comes mainly from our clients.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

id consulting Pty Ltd

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Retain info on number of motor vehicles

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Number of Motor Vehicles data are widely used by our Local Government Clients in planning new developments and dealing with developers - mandating particular parking requirements in local areas.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Number of Motor Vehicles is one of the more utilised topics in the Census for Local Government. It is critically important for small geographic areas, as it relates to parking, transport planning and development. Councils use it in dealing with developers of new housing to assess the need for parking. To do this they look at similar areas and the number of vehicles per household. In this way, the Motor Vehicle Census or vehicle registrations isn't necessarily going to provide the info - while this can give you the number of vehicles, it doesn't show the number per household, which is what's important from a planning perspective.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is accurately collected currently - this submission relates to the retention of the question, so no further info should be required here.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is collected currently and I'm not aware that it's particularly controversial. It's worth noting that it did have a higher non-response rate in 2016, but I think this is a general issue across Dwelling questions, and may be related to the higher household imputation rate.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The main issue with collecting this seems to be the perception that the question can go and make way for other topics. In this way its retention may increase the cost of the Census. Processing or including the topic should present no further difficulties compared to previously.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The main usefulness of Number of Motor Vehicles is in time series. For instance, our community profiles can show over the last 5 Censuses, whether household without cars have increased. In the most recent time period, in many areas, it shows big increases in the number of 3 or more vehicle households,

which is related to children staying in the family home longer, and declining household affordability. The Motor Vehicles (including time series) page is the 17th most viewed page on profile.id for local governments, out of 38 topic pages we have on the site, covering most Census topics. So while it's not the most heavily used, it's in the top half. In comparison, domestic work is the least used topic - motor vehicles has 6 times the number of hits as domestic work.

Unless Australians stop using motor vehicles, this topic will remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The issue for Motor Vehicles is that it is suggested the data can be obtained from vehicle registrations. While the total number of vehicles can be obtained from here, it is the availability of the number of vehicles PER HOUSEHOLD and the ability to cross-tabulate on other characteristics such as family type and tenure type, which makes this data valuable in assessing development applications for Local Government. To my knowledge this is not available in the register.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 520296911

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Leading Age Services Australia

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

none

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

planning for aged care needs

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

planning for future aged care needs

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Leading Age Services Australia proposes that the census gauge the degree of planning for possible future aged care needs by respondents aged 70 years and above.

The question posed may be worded:

Have you considered and/ or made plans on how to access and pay for aged care services should you require this support in the future?

Respondents' answers would enable policy makers to gauge whether the ageing cohort takes their future care needs into consideration when planning for the future.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 320489675

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

1

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

N/A

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

My submission proposes the importance of scoping the breadth of sexual, family and domestic violence in Australia.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Sexual assault and Domestic and family violence

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

We need a complete picture of the prevalence of sexual, family and domestic violence in Australia to be able to tackle the issue effectively. I understand that these statistics can be inferred from court records and police databases but a

staggeringly high proportion of these offences go unreported.

If citizens were given the opportunity to self-report as to whether they have or are experiencing one of the above forms of violence (with notice that this information would be de-identified and obfuscated before being reported and/or used to inform governance AND not reported without consent), we may be able to get a more comprehensive picture of how prevalent these crimes are in our communities. This approach could help to capture the experience of some citizens who were and/or are hesitant, afraid and/or reluctant to report to the authorities due to intimidation or other reasons.

The 'Change The Course: National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities (2017)' was a great start but more information is needed to see how these issues affect the entire community - not just within our campuses.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This information would need to be acquired to the fullest extent from the entire population. Sexual, family and domestic violence is not an isolated issue. Existing data from police and court records already indicates the prevalence of this issue throughout both urban, metropolitan and regional areas.

The information garnered from this self-reporting approach could then be cross referenced against other characteristics already being captured within the census such as location, standard income, employment and school completion rates in areas shown to have high numbers of self-reported incidents.

This information could also be cross referenced against government datasets regarding what social, police, medical and other assisting services are available in areas with high numbers of self reports.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This can be collected with two or three questions stating "Have you ever experienced or are you currently experiencing (a) Family violence, (b) Domestic violence and/or (c) Sexual violence?" This could then have a Yes/ No/ Do not wish to disclose response option.

This question would also need to make it clear that this information would not be reported on the citizens behalf and that it would be de-identified and obfuscated before being reported or used for decision making. Essentially make it clear that this is purely for statistical reporting and that no individuals would be called out.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I do acknowledge that this would be a difficult topic for some respondents. I am proposing this as an approach to gather this information as I think it would be a more attractive reporting method for victims of these crimes that are hesitant to go to the authorities.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As I stated in my response to Question 3 - I believe this information could be collected with 3 or even 2 questions (if you were to combine Family and Domestic violence into the one question). It would however require a prefacing statement regarding how the information will be used (see my response to Question 3).

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This information can inform future government decision making regarding the design and location of services and what specific services are needed. If it were to be collected continually, we would also be able to measure the progress of any interventions, services and/or government initiatives put in place to tackle the issue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As stated previously, there are other alternative data sources (such as court and police records) though a large number of these crimes go unreported, so these existing statistics around Sexual, Family and Domestic violence in Australia are unlikely to be entirely accurate. The self-reporting approach to gathering data around these issues has been shown to be an effective alternative before (see the 'Change The Course: National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities'). Victims of these crimes are more likely to self-report via a platform without legal and/or authoritative repercussions than to officially report the crime/s.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 418097364

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Local government and South Australian state government as an individual

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

na

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

na

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I wish to thank the office for the excellent work done. I have used the data for both my paid job and my unpaid job. In my previous paid job I worked for the SA Ambulance Service in regional South Australia working towards volunteer recruitment and retention. Your statistics were of immense help at each local level and enabled me to tailor my work accordingly. Additionally, I am a local councilor for the City of Burnside in metro Adelaide. Again, I use your data to inform my decisions. I want to thank you all for providing a source of information that is accurate and one I trust. It has helped me enormously and through that has also helped my local residents and the people of regional South Australia.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒

☐ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☒ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☒ Proficiency in spoken English
- ☒ Ancestry
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Am interested in all topics

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

na

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

na

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

na

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

na

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

na

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

na

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

I think the data currently collected fulfils the need for quality information without being too onerous for the respondents to supply. I think we need to be careful about asking further questions just because we can.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1033802561

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc.

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

The University of Adelaide

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Our Association believes there is growing user interest and need for additional

data in relation to the ownership and use of second residences, particularly in relation to people who regularly stay in a second residence due to work commitments, people who maintain a second residence for holiday purposes, and students who stay in a second residence due to educational requirements. Local government authorities require this data to assist in planning local infrastructure and services such as water, sewerage treatment, waste collection, drainage and other local services to meet the demand associated with peak populations.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Location

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Address on Census night
- ☒ Usual residence
- ☒ Internal migration (Address 1 year ago)
- ☒ Internal migration (Address 5 years ago)
- ☒ Workplace address for the main job held the week before Census night
- ☒ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Ownership of second residence/other dwelling

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The topic has a direct bearing on the allocation of resources and long-term planning of community infrastructure and services in settlements throughout Australia, particularly those in coastal areas. Population growth in Australia's coastal areas is consistently among the highest in the nation. The current absence of accurate data on peak populations in these areas creates difficulty for State agencies and local governments in planning the provision of adequate infrastructure and services to meet community needs. State agencies and local governments would be able to plan services to meet community needs with greater certainty if reliable data on population peaks in coastal areas were available.

The lack of accurate data on peak populations also places communities in coastal areas at a financial disadvantage because it means the allocation of funds through programs such as Financial Assistance Grants is based in part on permanent populations drawn from the Census data rather than on actual peak populations. The permanent populations in these areas, as indicated below, are often substantially lower than peak populations.

A major research project undertaken by the late Professor Graeme Hugo and a research team at The University of Adelaide in 2013 (Hugo G and Harris K, (2013) 'Time and tide; moving towards an understanding of temporal population changes in coastal Australia', Adelaide) showed there is a significant, discernible difference between the permanent population in coastal 'sea change' areas, as determined by the Census, which is conducted mid-week in winter, and the peak populations in these areas at other times of the year, when non-resident owners of properties in the area and larger numbers of tourists are more likely to be present. As indicated at page 14 of the final report of the research project:

'At the aggregate level, 95.7 per cent of non-resident holiday home owners were not at their sea change LGA on the night of the 2011 Census. The Report developed a methodology to identify non-resident properties that would have been rented out on Census night, and whose tenants should therefore have been counted in the Census. Allowing for this, the survey indicated that at the aggregate level two thirds of non-resident properties would have been unoccupied on the night of the Census'.

The following table indicates the number of persons who use the services and facilities in nine coastal councils that participated as case study areas in The University of Adelaide research project, who were not present on the night of the 2011 Census. It also indicates the percentage of the permanent population in each area that these additional 'missing' persons represent.

LGA/Combined Est. Population of unoccupied dwelling and tourists/Combined Est. Population as a percentage of population in 2011 Census

Busselton	8,429	27.8%
Byron	5,254	18.0%
Cairns	28,655	18.3%
East Gippsland	8,595	20.4%
Eurobodalla	11,296	31.6%
Mandurah	11,971	17.1%

Mornington Peninsula 30,391 21.0%
Shoalhaven 22,721 24.5%
Surf Coast 8,848 34.2%

Adequately meeting community needs for basic infrastructure and services is a critical function of local government. The lack of accurate data on peak populations is a major barrier to accurately assessing the current or projected level of demand for infrastructure and services in coastal communities, where there is a significant fluctuation between population levels at different times of the year.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As indicated in the report by the research team at The University of Adelaide the proposed new Census topic on second residences is critical to local councils to ensure that they receive an adequate allocation of resources through programs such as Financial Assistance Grants and to enable them to undertake long-term planning of community infrastructure and services. The data sought through the proposed additional Census topic is proposed to be collected from the whole Australian population.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household

completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data on ownership of second residences and the location of such dwellings is known to people filling out the Census form and would be readily captured on the form. Collecting such data does not represent an invasion of privacy.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial by respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is not anticipated that the additional topic will present any difficulties in relation to coding the information. The data sought is the location of a second residence owned by the person filling out the Census form and the number of days per year it is used by the property owner.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There would be a continuing need for the collection of data on ownership of second residences to enable councils to undertake long-term planning of community infrastructure and services in coastal areas and to ensure that the councils receive an adequate allocation of resources through programs such as Financial Assistance Grants.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Some councils in coastal areas currently prepare their own estimates of peak populations in their area based on various indicators, including increase in local retail turnover on selected items during weekend and holiday periods, increased volumes of sewage through local treatment works and increased water use. There is no alternative data source, however, which provides consistent, reliable data on non-resident populations that could be applied to all LGAs.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Please find attached a copy of the final report of the study into temporary populations conducted by The University of Adelaide research team which is referred to earlier. The title of the report is 'Time and tide: moving towards an understanding of temporal population changes in coastal Australia,' by Hugo G and Harris K (2013) Adelaide.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKVY-3.pdf](#)

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 262141408

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Ask what Post Code(s) a person works in/commutes to. This can guide public and private transport and provide insight into how demographics shift throughout the day.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Also transport

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☐

- ☐ Status in employment
- ☐ Hours worked
- ☐ Self employed - number of employees
- ☐ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data supports policy development & planning

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data is most powerful when combined with other census data and other data sources

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Easily understood, the question is short and the response is quick. A 4 digit postcode.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Could be a non compulsory question. Should not be unduely intrusive.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Should be simple to include and simple to use in analysis.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This will be important as time series data becomes available. It would remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Commuting data could be sourced from mobile phone movements but does not include the demographic data that is available from census level information.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 153737323

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Private business but our clients are mainly local government around Australia, so this feedback comes mainly from our clients.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

id consulting Pty Ltd

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Suggested inclusion of "Method of Travel to Education" in the Census - along the same lines as method of travel to work. If possible, the place of education could also be included.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Mode of travel to education

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Nationally, it is likely that education is the second most significant transport function after travel to work. It is a substantial policy area looking at providing appropriate transport options to transport children to and from school, and for adults traveling to tertiary education. Conversations around childhood obesity, exercise, traffic congestion, child-care and participation in the workforce often have an element which relates to transport to and from places of education. Detailed information from the Census at a national level would help inform these debates and policies.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Method of travel to education (and possibly location of educational institution) is fundamentally a small area characteristic. It will show a great deal of spatial variation between (eg.) inner city areas, suburban areas and rural areas, as does method of travel to work. An understanding of how far children are traveling to their educational institution and how they get there can help inform school and tertiary campus planning, and transport policies at a very local level - to the extent of looking at bus routes and road design. These are inherently local topics so the data are clearly needed at a small geographic level. The value of the topic can also be enhanced by combining with other characteristics - eg. an understanding of how far children travel based on parental income and socio-economic status.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The format of the question would be similar to that already asked for place of work and method of travel to work. These are successfully collected each Census and have been for some time. So it's likely that questions could be asked similarly about education on a self-responded form. There may be some question design and testing required, and some thought needs to be given to whether Method of Travel relates to the day of Census or "usual" method.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is difficult to see how method of travel to education would be considered a sensitive topic. It is not particularly personal or intrusive, any more than method of travel to work is. School enrollments data are generally available and known in the community. Compared to questions such as income, it's unlikely to be considered intrusive. The only specific group who might have an issue with it may be home schoolers? On the other hand this community would then be represented in the Census so it might be seen as a positive development.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Method of travel to education can probably be collected relatively efficiently without lengthy instruction or explanation. One thing it may require is a lot of response categories, but these are likely to be similar to those for method of travel to work, with slight differences (eg. driven to school by parents). So some of the infrastructure for processing this would be already available. Having said that, Method of Travel to work has 137 output categories, so it is one of the larger classifications due to the need to incorporate combinations of up to 3 methods. It's possible that method of travel to education could record only "main method" which would reduce the categories. If "Place of education" is also collected, this would add value to the topic, but would require extensive coding. Again, geographic coding such as used in Place of Work is significantly more streamlined in recent years, as evidenced by the inclusion of imputed Place of Work data in the 2016 Census (unfortunately making it non-comparable with 2011). This streamlining should make Place of Education data viable as well.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Informing policy debates around how children get to school, and understanding transport infrastructure for tertiary education has a very high likelihood of remaining relevant in the future. Time series data will be critical in understanding policy at the local level. Eg. are initiatives such as walking bus, bicycle lanes etc. encouraging children to take active transport methods rather than being driven? The full value of this will only be seen once it is collected

over multiple time periods. Time series is the essence of Census data and the main value is really seen in stability of questions over a long time frame. This is evidenced by many of the topics on .id's Community Profile sites which have data on some topics consistently back to 1991.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There may well be other data sources for this. Place of Education in particular could be sourced via school enrolment databases at the institution level or the state level. Privacy considerations make this difficult to collect at times, but there may be a viable alternative here. The value of having it in the Census, however, would be consistency over time and the ability to cross-tabulate with other demographic characteristics.

For Method of Travel to education, I'm not aware of any consistent data source which could provide this information, except for patchy and informal surveys conducted in some areas.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Thanks for the opportunity to submit this proposal. Our local government and

other client base who are users of .id's community profile and economic profile sites have provided this feedback. Journey to Education was mentioned by 3 people in response to our blog calling for submissions, but is regularly mentioned at training and briefing sessions in the local government sector.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 830479025

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

On the transport question regarding mode of getting to work. I think that capturing information as to why I chose that mode of transport would be valuable. I ride a bike. I would love to ride my bike to work as I am in a regional city and live only 5km from work. Yet it takes me 15 minutes to get to work and there is not enough infrastructure to allow me to ride safely between 7:30 am and 9:30 am when I would need to arrive at work. Some questions around choice would better inform planners as to what people would like to do rather than what they're doing now.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended

IT

Ch Number of motor vehicles

Ch Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is required for planning purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed for planners all over the country - urgently. Every new transport project which goes ahead without considering allowing flexibility in transport to work is an opportunity lost.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes I believe that there could be easily understood questions which could inform a demand.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes, this should be perfectly acceptable.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It should be possible to at least design a couple of very simple questions to capture enough data. It would even be as targeted as:
If you had a safe way to ride a bike to work would you choose to do this
Or a multiple choice asking what the obstacles were to not riding to work eg, don't like riding, unsafe, no change facilities etc.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

I think it would need to be reviewed to see if the information was taken up by planners? Also, to see whether it potentially had an effect on the answer to the question regarding how people get to work?

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I don't believe there is a reliable, country wide, source for this data. There would likely be a number of studies however many of these also contain bias depending on who has run the survey. The ABS census should be able to capture unbiased information which would inform specific areas country wide. There may be less expressed need in some areas.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Nothing additional to add.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 744194460

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I believe it is important for decision makers at Federal State and Local levels to better understand the levels of activity in research particularly innovation and creativity as a catalyst for ensuring Australia is amongst the worlds leading nations. The pace of change is so rapid it would be easy for our nation to become complacent and fall behind other nations therefor risking our future generations of being uncompetitive. The social and economic impact of that scenario would be significantly negative.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment

II

Ch Hours worked

II

Ch Self employed - number of employees

II

Ch Occupation

II

Ch Industry of employment

Ch

Ch Other/unknown

II

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The second dot point is most relevant to my submission, the third dot point is also relevant at a lower level

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

the third dot point is most relevant

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

second dot point

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It would appeal to many however not the majority so some explanation is necessary why the question(s) is/are being asked

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Coding sample answers is best as the topic is more qualitative than quantitative

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

second dot point

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The data is like available but likely fragmented requiring extensive research

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

no thank you



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 155063506

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Private business but our clients are mainly local government around Australia, so this feedback comes mainly from our clients.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

id consulting Pty Ltd

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Enhanced data from the Disability/Need for Assistance question to assist disability support, NDIS, local areas to understand communities needing assistance.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Currently information is collected on "Need for assistance with core activities" in the Census. It is collected in 3 subcategories, "Self-care", "Body movement" and "Communication". However for release, this is aggregated to "Needs Assistance" or "Does not need assistance". While these have some use in looking at the prevalence of severe or profound disability, it is limited if the type and severity is not known. It also seems to be a substantial undercount when compared to data from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC).

Data on the types and severity of disability are of critical importance at a national level, for research and planning. Particularly with the implementation of the NDIS, it would be of great use if Census data could be aligned to the NDIS eligibility criteria. This is needed at both a national and local level. For national and state level information, SDAC could serve this purpose, but for local planning, particularly Local Government, it's really needed for small areas, and over time.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The disability data which is collected now from the Census (Need for Assistance) is widely used among our local government clients who are directly, or indirectly (through service providers) involved in providing services to people with a disability. There is a lot of confusion about exactly what the Census topic covers - I usually explain that it is meant to look only at severe and profound disabilities requiring assistance.

Because this is mainly looking at service provision, there is a clear need for disability data at a local level, and cross-tabulated with other characteristics - particularly age, income, cultural background, housing tenure, education and

employment.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is likely to be the most difficult part for disability data. There is an element of subjectivity to this, and many questions about disability and severity are better asked by a trained interviewer rather than a self-responder form.

As a starting point, however, ABS could consider releasing data on the three sub-categories of Need for Assistance which are currently collected, Self-Care, Body Movement and Communication. As these are already asked, they presumably can be easily understood, and this would go a long way towards providing some nuance to the disability data in the Census.

If the question(s) could be reworded to relate to all disabilities, with a further breakdown on whether current assistance needs are being met or not, this would provide a great insight for local government who are looking at providing services to these vulnerable populations. This is probably harder to get valid answers to on self-responder form. We recognise the difficulties in this area. If the question could be in some way aligned to NDIS eligibility criteria, this would be of the most use.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is certainly possible that a question on disability could be considered intrusive for some population groups. It's noted that the item non-response rate (excluding imputation) is only 2.2% for the current question, which is relatively low - so it's likely that the broad nature of the current question is not considered very intrusive by most people. However expanding this to probe further into the type and severity of disability may be considered more personal by some people.

Additionally, the specific groups most requiring assistance due to a disability, are in many cases those who won't be able to fill in the Census form themselves. This is already the case for people in institutional accommodation, where the forms are normally filled in by a carer/staff member. Further details on type and severity of disability may put more of a burden on this group, who are often filling in multiple forms for patients in care. For smaller institutions these people are not paid and are expected to do this over and above their normal duties. This could cause some issues, and may lead to a higher non-response rate. However it's worth noting that those already in cared accommodation are probably not the most important group to collect this information from - those living in the wider community are more so. Perhaps there would be a way around this with some automatic data collection from nursing homes.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Releasing data for the currently collected 3 sub-categories of need for assistance should present minimal extra need for coding or processing - in fact these have to be coded already so there should be no difference, or significant extra cost.

There could be more coding and processing issues with extending the assessment of disability into type or severity. It would likely entail at least two new questions as a part of the disability set of questions and this could well extend the length of the form. Based on usage from our client base in Local

Government, the current Need for Assistance data is ranked 20th of 37 pages in profile.id, meaning it's somewhere in the middle, despite the shortcomings and broad nature of the current question. This means it ranks more highly than things like home loan repayments, child care, domestic work and (interestingly) unpaid care to a person with a disability. It may be possible to devise a question set which incorporated the carer aspect into the disability question itself, which would potentially save on this topic.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data is particularly important for disability/need for assistance data. The changing nature of the disability sector, particularly NDIS, means providers need to know which way types of service provision for disabilities are trending.

ID has a semi-standard consultancy option for our clients which uses Census data (the current Need for Assistance by age and sex) combined with propensities for different types of disability from the SDAC to assess likely current need for different types of disability services. This has been quite popular with our clients, and a number of them have had this work done. The most useful part however is the time series. Based on combining this data with our population forecasts, clients can look at likely future prevalence of disability types over time and have used this to negotiate with service providers to move into their local areas. Having this time series from the Census would be of vital importance to many of these Local Government Areas, and also enable the forecasts to be much more nuanced to local conditions.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There certainly are possible other data sources for this. I've already mentioned one - the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. The ABS used to derive "Synthetic Estimates of Disability" from this, which had Local Government Area estimates of type and severity of disability, using modelling techniques. My understanding is that this is no longer produced. However this could go a long way towards meeting the need - with the exception of cross-tabulation with other Census characteristics.

Other data sources may include state information about people in care - there are of course privacy issues associated with releasing that information, and it won't provide data about people living outside institutional care in the community. Some info on these may be obtained from particular service providers, but the enhancement provided from the Census data would enable these service providers to be more proactive in looking at their client base as well.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Interest in disability data is very high among our client base. At most training sessions for our Local Government Clients I would be asked in some way about the availability of data on disability in the population. Most users express disappointment with the low level of detail available in the Census and ask for a further breakdown. I usually explain the difficulties with the collection of this topic outlined in the submission but believe there are still likely improvements which can be made to enhance the dataset available in this question from the Census. Thanks for the opportunity to submit this information.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 818363564

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Collect data on place and method of travel to school for persons under 18

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Travel to school

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Would support infrastructure planning, primarily at a state level but also

informing Commonwealth activities (eg. Infrastructure Australia)

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Particularly useful when cross referenced by household income / socioeconomic status as well as location.

Needed at a fine grain level to inform transport models.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household

completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Is straightforward to collect - use same structure as existing MOTW

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Not personally intrusive. Unlikely to be controversial. May have some sensitivities if religion is considered but SA1 granularity of reporting should be adequate.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

May have some complexities in processing. However existing routines related to processing method of travel to work question could be utilised.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Transport challenges are increasing in our cities and regions. School related travel appears to be contributing but to date data is limited. Ongoing collection of this information would assist not only in ongoing planning but also assist with evaluation of initiatives.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Currently various states collect travel data via household surveys. This data is collected intermittently and is less common in regional centres. As surveys they tend to suffer from high error rates especially for less-used modes and are rarely able to be disaggregated to small areas (eg. suburb or less).

Education data is collected by state education agencies and due to privacy concerns is rarely made available to other agencies or individuals.

Cross-correlation is therefore practically impossible.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 67864109

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Myself as a citizen

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I was interested to know how many households had pets and found the lack of this info in the 2016 Census to be disappointing.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☐

- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Household and family relationships
- ☒ Marital status
- ☒ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Household makeup

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is required for governments to understand how important pets are to their family. Understanding the make-up of the household which includes pets assists us in supporting families with pets, including renters.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information.

A simple yes/no to pet and the number and type of pets.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on the topic
The topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is currently no data on this topic being collected nationally

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 15843052

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Please select one item

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- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Private business but our clients are mainly local government around Australia, so this feedback comes mainly from our clients.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

id consulting Pty Ltd

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Potential removal of the domestic work question from the 2021 Census to allow space for other topics.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Unpaid care of children
- ☒ Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- ☐ Unpaid work - domestic activities
- ☒ Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The topic of the number of hours of domestic work done has been collected for the past 3 Censuses, and collects in broad ranges (eg. 5-14 hours) the amount of total domestic work done in the household. Apart from an initial media flurry around Census release, which usually focuses on gender differences (females do more domestic work nationally), there appears to be very little use of this data among policy and decision makers through our client base.

While there may be some interest in this at a national level, it seems that this could be catered for as part of a survey (eg. a labour force supplementary survey) rather than being a Census question. Removal of this question could allow space for additional questions our clients have requested, as per our other submissions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This is where the premise for including Domestic Work in the Census is probably insubstantial. .id's community profiles have 38 pages covering most Census topics for Local Government Areas and suburb/town geography based on the last 6 Census periods. Domestic work by hours is shown in time series for the past 3 Censuses presently. Over the last year, this page ranks 37th out of 38 for usage among all users of our public LGA sites (the only lower ranked page is a derived page which is not directly collected from the Census). It has had 4,612 hits across all our approximately 250 sites in the past year (for comparison, the top ranked page, Labour Force Status has had 81,070).

This indicates that while there might be a broad interest (usually gender based) in national figures on domestic work, there is little need for this at a local level or for comparison among any more detailed sub populations than male/female. Additionally, in the training sessions we run for council clients, Domestic Work is rarely if ever asked about, while other topics not collected on the Census such as health and recreational participation are frequently asked about. These are the topics of other submissions. As a consequence of this, in an environment where space on the Census form is limited, domestic work seems a likely candidate to remove to make way for other topics.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is another issue with the domestic work question. The categories based on number of hours are quite broad, and probably necessarily so, as most individuals would not know to any great level of detail how many hours they worked around the home, in the same way that they would for paid employment, for example. Relatively few people would actually keep track of this information and so you end up with needing to use broad categories such as "15-29 hours" which is a huge range, and likely to be meaningless for policymakers. Even with these, I know I personally had a hard time working out how many hours of domestic work I had done in the last week when filling in my own Census form. In that way it's not quick or easy to answer and may lead to respondent error. There are also a lot of grey areas about what exactly constitutes domestic work - eg. looking after children has its own topic, but substantial domestic work is related to the activities of children.

To actually get meaningful information about the division of labour within a household, more detailed questions would need to be asked, and it's unclear what purpose this would serve at a policy level, as these are usually issues for an individual household, not government or business decision makers.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As per previous point - while Domestic Work is probably not considered too intrusive or controversial, respondents are unlikely to be able to answer this accurately with any degree of certainty. Hence the need for the current question to be in broad ranges to the point of being unsuitable for telling the demographic story of an area. It also leads to minimal differences across geographic areas in the results of this topic.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As per previous points, the topic is currently collected, but to make it more useful would require extra questions, categories etc. which may add significantly to the cost of the Census. This money could be better spent on other topics which have both a national interest, and a need for data for small areas.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It is interesting to see that for the past 3 Censuses this dataset has been collected, the percentages in each category at a national level have barely changed. There has been a slight reduction in the percentage of people claiming 30 or more hours of domestic work since 2006 (down from 11.6% to 9% of population), but the total doing any domestic work has varied only between 69% and 70% and there is little spatial variation that can't be explained by changes in the "Not Stated" category. This indicates that it isn't likely to change much in the future either, and therefore less frequent collection, or collection via a national survey might be a better vehicle for data on Domestic Work.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We don't see much need for this topic among our clients, mainly Local Government decision makers. As the data don't vary much by geographic level, inclusion in a Labour Force Supplementary Survey or the General Social Survey which can provide outputs at state level would probably be sufficient to inform social debate generally, rather than having it on the Census form. The space saved on the form could then be used for other topics.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Thanks for the opportunity to put in this submission on behalf of our client base. While in a perfect world you could have as many questions as anyone wanted on the Census, if there is a need to cut questions to make way for others, this submission identifies Domestic Work as less relevant than many potential inclusions on the Census, and a key candidate for removal.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 764563520

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Macquarie University

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Time-related underemployment occurs when part-time workers would be willing and available to work more hours or when full-time workers did not work full-time hours for economic reasons (Wilkins and Wooden 2011; ABS 2018). Data from the ABS Labour Force Survey shows that such underemployment is currently the most prevalent form of labour force underutilisation in Australia (ABS 2018). This high underemployment rate is related to Australia's percentage of the labour force working part-time, which is one of the highest in the OECD (OECD 2018). I would like to see a question which allows statistics on such underemployment to be included in the 2021 census.

The collection of data on underemployment by the census would enhance the understanding of labour underutilisation and its variation between occupations and industries, geographically and by demographic subgroup. By doing so, it would enhance our understanding of labour market demand and supply mismatches, and the measurement and understanding of community disadvantage. Whilst statistics on underemployment at the national level and for large geographic regions (e.g. states) and some large broadly-defined demographic subgroups of the population are already available from the ABS

Labour Force Survey, there is a critical need for data on this topic for small geographic areas, for specifically and narrowly-defined industries and occupations, and for the multitude of country of birth groups, language groups, ancestry groups, and religious groups, which collectively account for substantial proportions of our population, and yet when considered individually form too small a proportion of the population to permit robust estimation from sample survey data.

Research using census data on underemployment has the potential to enhance the evidence basis for policy formulation in a range of areas, including the targeting of skilled migration policy, policy to enhance migrant labour market integration, the geographic and demographic targeting of recruitment, and the targeting of needs-based provision for education.

Simple, easily-understood formulations of questions on underemployment with a proven track record of successful implementation, and which will not require extensive or expensive coding, already exist. The census already collects data on part-time and full-time work, hours-worked, occupation, industry and demographic characteristics which will facilitate meaningful measurement and understanding of the context of underemployment. The value of census data on underemployment is likely to endure and would could be further enhanced by the time series which would result from inclusion in future censuses.

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2018) Labour Force, Australia March 2018.

Catalogue Number 6202.0 AGPS: Canberra.

OECD (2018) Data Part-time Employment Rate.

<https://data.oecd.org/emp/part-time-employment-rate.htm>

Wilkins, R. and Wooden, M. (2011) Economic approaches to measuring underemployment. Pp13-33 in Maynard, D.C. and Feldman, D.C.

Underemployment. Springer: Netherlands.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The provision of data on underemployment from the census would be extremely valuable for research purposes and to support the development of immigration policy, to monitor disadvantage, and the allocation of funding to reflect need.

Research on the labour market outcomes of Australia's overseas-born population is important for assessing the success of immigrant economic integration and of immigrant selection policy. Over many decades the census has been the most important source of data source for research on the labour market outcomes of country of birth groups, second generation migrant groups, and religious groups, including the many which form only small percentages of the population and which cannot effectively be researched using other sample survey sources of data. These outcomes include unemployment, labour force participation, hours worked, occupation-related outcomes, and income. There

appears to be a dearth of knowledge about underemployment patterns between migrant, language, ancestry, and religion groups, and our lack of such knowledge is becoming all the more significant as the prevalence of underemployment has increased in recent years.

Skilled migrant selection is based on lists of occupations which are defined at detailed (4-digit) code levels and which in many cases constitute relatively small percentages of the population. However to date, research on the extent of underemployment persists in these occupations appears to be absent. The provision of such data via the census has the potential to provide important information on the extent of labour underutilisation in these occupations.

The census would also enable analysis of underemployment for relatively small geographic areas. Indices of areal socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage (SEIFA) are widely used in research and inform the allocation of resources. For example some of my own research has compared school outcomes to local SEIFA index scores. However such indices are arguably deficient due to the lack of consideration of underemployment patterns they can provide. Since underemployment disproportionately affects women, such indices also may be failing to capture an important gender-related dimension of disadvantage.

Analyses of Indigenous disadvantage, women's disadvantage, youth and other disadvantage by age, and housing/mortgage stress, could also be enhanced by census data on underemployment

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on underemployment is urgently needed for small population groups including occupations and industries down to the 4-digit code level, country of birth groups, second generation groups, language groups, religious groups (all also down to the 4 digit level). Data on these other types of small population groups is generally collected by the census. The ABS TableBuilder facility also allows researchers to cross-tabulate such variables. For example one of my recent papers demonstrated some substantial differences in occupation between ancestry subgroups of Asian migrant groups eg between Sikh, Punjabi, Anglo-Indian and other subgroups of the India-born, and between

Chinese, Indian and other ancestry subgroups of South-East Asian groups (De Alwis and Parr 2018). This provides grounds to expect heterogeneity in underemployment rates within, as well as between migrant and other community groups.

Data on underemployment for small geographic areas is needed to enhance economic geographic analysis and measurements of areal advantage/disadvantage, such as SEIFA-type indices. For example, maps showing the geographic variation in measures of socioeconomic advantage/disadvantage are best based on small area data. However our knowledge and understanding of such geographic patterns of disadvantage is restricted by our inability to consider underemployment. The provision of census data for Commonwealth and State electorates may enhance the understanding of local representatives and candidates of the issues faced by the local community.

The value of census data on underemployment would be enhanced though the ready combination of such data with data on hours actually worked, part-time/full-time, income and the wide range of demographic data collected by the census.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The feasibility of collecting data on underemployment is already well-demonstrated by the collection of such data by the ABS Labour Force Survey and by other surveys such as HILDA. Such surveys also offer successful models of question design which could potentially be adopted.

For example the HILDA survey collect data on underemployment using the following two simple, easy-to-answer questions:

If you could choose the number of hours you work each week, and taking into account how that would affect your income, would you prefer to work:

More Hours than you do now, the same hours as you do now, fewer hours than you do now.

This is followed by (a second less important question):

In total, how many hours a week, on average, would you choose to work?
Again, take into account how that would affect your income.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The collection of data on time-related underemployment is unlikely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial. It has been successfully collected for large-scale surveys such as the ABS Labour Force Survey and HILDA. Therefore census respondents should be expected to be similarly willing and able to answer such questions. I do not see any other considerations for specific groups.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A basic question on underemployment, such as the one below, has only three response categories. It therefore would not present major difficulties for coding or processing and would not add significantly to the cost of the census. The experience of collection for major surveys indicates lengthy instruction or explanation is not needed.

“If you could choose the number of hours you work each week, and taking into

account how that would affect your income, would you prefer to work”:
More Hours than you do now, the same hours as you do now, fewer hours than you do now.

If a second question along the lines of the one below were to be added, the options for response are 1) to allow the answer to be written in or 2) to provide a choice of ranges for hours. The question would be skipped by those who did not select “More Hours” for the previous question. Either way there would not be major difficulties for coding or extensive processing, or a significant additional cost burden.

“In total, how many hours a week, on average, would you choose to work?”

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time-related underemployment should be expected to remain a critically-important topic in the future. The Labour Force Survey data show its importance has generally over time. It is related to part-time work and service-sector work, both of which have also become more prevalent over time. The monitoring of trends over time for small geographical areas, electorates and local government areas would enhance our understanding of change in economic fortunes at a localised level, Trends by occupation and industry (at a detailed level of disaggregation) would help to understand labour market oversupply/shortage of demand trends. Trends in underemployment over time for indigenous populations and other cultural and linguistic groups, age-sex groups

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data on time-related underemployment is collected by the Monthly ABS Labour Force Survey and by the HILDA Survey. However as explained in relation to Assessment Criteria 2 there is a need to also collect such data from a Census of the whole population.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 997903127

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

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- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Macquarie University

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The inclusion of Children Ever Born (TISP) on the census is essential to the understanding of population change both at the national and at the subnational levels. I argue for the retention of Children Ever Born on a five-yearly basis. The potential advantages of extending of the scope of the children ever born data collection to include the provision of information on children for men and disaggregation of children into sons and daughters are also mentioned. Fertility, along with mortality and in and out migration is one of the components of population growth. The formulation of fertility assumptions is integral to the preparation of population projections. Such projections underpin budgetary and other resource allocation to government departments and are integral to a wide range of planning and policy decisions. Children are also of fundamental importance to most Australian families. In view of its importance in both the public sphere and in the private sphere, research on the determinants and personal-level and societal-level consequences of fertility is critically important. Decisions to have additional children depend in part on the number of children the partners already have, their numbers of sons and the numbers of daughters. For these reasons the collection of children ever born in each five

yearly census can enhance the understanding and projection of fertility over the subsequent period. The linkage of data from successive five yearly censuses has the potential to considerably improve the projection of fertility levels.

Data on children ever born from the census is the only data source on fertility patterns for the multitude of population subgroups which are identifiable in the census. The collection of data on children ever born by the census has been proven to be unproblematic.

Fertility will remain of fundamentally importance to most Australian families in the future. It will inevitably be remain integral to determining future population and hence State and local government funding and budgets, electoral representation and boundaries, and resource allocation by a wide range of public sector, private sector and not-for-profit sector organisations. The collection of data on children ever born every five years by the census would provide critically important time series.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Fertility, along with mortality and in and out migration is one of the components of population growth. The formulation of fertility assumptions is integral to the preparation of population projections, at the national, State or Territory and local levels. Such projections underpin budgetary and other resource allocation to government departments and are integral to a wide range of planning and policy decisions, including Treasury budget planning, urban planning, transport planning, education planning, and health service planning. Fertility decision making is also of fundamental importance to most Australian families. Both because of its importance in the public sphere and because of its importance in the private sphere, research on fertility and its determinants and personal-level and societal-level consequences is critical importance.

The more commonly-presented measures of fertility relate to particular time periods. In recent decades Australia's Total Fertility Rate has undulated up and down. Age-Specific Fertility Rates for different ages have often moved in different directions over the same period of time: a pattern of decreases across the 15-29 age range and increases across the 30-49 age range has been evident for most of the last 30 years. These patterns are most readily understood in terms of the patterns within birth cohorts; as numbers of children produced below the age of 30 have generally reduced over time and there have been (almost) commensurate increases in birth rates above age 30 within the same cohort (a 'postponement-catch up' pattern) (Parr and Guest 2011). Knowing the numbers of women (and ideally their partners) with different numbers of children ever born at different ages can enhance the understanding and anticipation of such "catch up" effects. Immigration has an important bearing on the percentages of women (and men) of differing ages with different numbers of children. The percentages of newly arrived immigrants with zero children or one child are generally significantly greater than those for longer-

established residents, and the 'catch-up' effect among migrants is more rapid (Parr 2014). We depend on census data on children ever born to reveal such patterns. Research has also shown the likelihood of a woman having another child depends not only on her current number of existing children but also on the number of sons, number of daughters and on her partner's children (Gray and Evans 2005, Kippen et al. 2007, Thomson et al. 2014). Thus the collection of the number of children by sex and for men has the potential to improve the understanding of family formation patterns and the projection of future fertility. In addition to considering the distributions of women of different ages by parity (number of children ever born), the analysis and projection of fertility should factor in intercensal probabilities of transition between parities. Linked data between successive censuses both of which include a question on numbers of children ever born can provide the estimates of such parity-transition probabilities. Linked census data on children ever born and birth registration data can also be used to estimate parity progression patterns. Data on children ever born from the census is the only data source on fertility patterns for the multitude of population subgroups which are identifiable in the census. Thus, for example, exaggerated urban myths about the fertility of Muslim Australians are readily dispelled by fact (Allen and Parr 2017). The ages and parity distribution of children among men differs from that among women. Men have children at later ages and both childlessness and having a relatively large number of children are more common among men (Parr 2010). Collecting census data on numbers of children for men would facilitate research on how in male parenting ages and parity vary between across the population. It is therefore critically important to the understanding of fertility trends and to improving the forecasting of fertility that a question on children ever born features on the census every five years.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Census data on children ever born is the only source of information on the fertility patterns of a range of small population groups including occupations down to the 4-digit code level, second generation migrant groups, ancestry

groups, language groups, and religious groups (all also down to the 4 digit level). Data on these other types of small population groups is generally collected by the census. The ABS TableBuilder facility also allows researchers to cross-tabulate such variables. Patterns of preference between male and female children are apparent in some overseas countries, and for Australia there is evidence of a preference for 'one of each'; couples with, for example, two children of the same sex are more likely to have a third child than those with one boy and one girl. Census data on numbers of sons and numbers of daughters would facilitate the extension of research to consider patterns for migrant, second generation, ancestry and religion groups which form small percentages of the total population and for small geographic areas.

Census data on numbers of children can also bolster the understanding of other behaviours. For example, some of my research links some of differences in women's employment and income patterns between country of birth groups and between religious groups to their differing numbers of children ever born (De Alwis and Parr under review).

Census data on children ever born for small geographic areas, such as SA2s, can also enhance the understanding of fertility trends and the preparation of fertility assumptions for population projections for these areas (Parr 2014, 2018) and understanding of such geographic patterns of disadvantage is restricted by our inability to consider underemployment. The provision of census data for Commonwealth and State electorates may enhance the understanding of local representatives and candidates of the issues faced by the local community.

The value of census data on children ever born is enhanced though the ready combination of such data with data on age, sex, marital status, birthplace, ancestry, language, religion, labour force status, occupation, and income by the census. It will be enhanced even further by the linkage of data from successive censuses and between census and birth registration.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A question on number of children ever born has been asked successfully administered on a number of previous censuses, including the last three censuses. This shows it can be readily understood by respondents.

The wording used has been:

“For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?”

The question could be additionally applied to men by revising the wording to “How many have you ever given birth to/fathered?”

Whichever form of the question is preferred the additional instructions “Include live births only” and “Exclude foster, step and adopted children” should be included.

All women should know how many children they have had. Among men there may be some misattributed paternity. However, according to Gilding (2005) in Western societies this is around 1 per cent and no more than 3 per cent.

The question requires provision of a number or the marking of a box for “none”, and thus is quick and easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Questions on children ever born/fathered have been administered successfully in numerous censuses and surveys. For the overwhelming majority such questions are not intrusive, offensive or controversial. It is possible that memories of children who have died or who were still born may cause some sadness for a small minority of respondents.

Almost all women should know how many children they have had. Among men there may be some misattributed paternity. However, according to Gilding (2005) in Western societies this is around 1 per cent and no more than 3 per cent.

Questions on number of sons and numbers of daughters should be similarly acceptable.

There are no other consideration for specific groups.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The answers will be in integer values, mostly below 6 and almost all below 20. Thus it will neither present major coding difficulties nor will it require extensive processing. It will not significantly add to the cost of the census. The instruction needed (see previous section) is brief and straightforward. The data on the number of children will require only one number to be recorded for each person aged over 15. The extension to a number of sons and a number of daughters would extend the data collection by only two simply-coded numbers.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

A question on children ever born has been asked on the 2006, 2011 and 2016 censuses. Time series allow the change in completed family size (i.e. for age 45-49) over time to be tracked. This is a critically important aspect for fertility patterns. The availability of data on successive five-yearly censuses not only allows changes to numbers of children at other ages to be tracked but also and even more crucially it allows changes in numbers of children within cohorts over time to be identified. Such age, period and cohort time series are vitally important to understanding fertility change. Time series on numbers of children ever born among migrants are important for understanding fertility trends over time and trends in the composition of recent immigrant arrivals and overseas-born populations over time. Linked data between successive censuses will

vastly enhance the value of census data on children ever born by allowing intercensal propensities for change in numbers of children to be estimated. Fertility will remain of fundamental importance to most Australian families in the future. It will inevitably be an integral to determining future population and hence State and local government funding and budgets, electoral representation and boundaries, and resource allocation by a wide range of public sector, private sector and not-for-profit sector organisations.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no nationwide, comprehensive collection of data on numbers of children ever born.

Some sample surveys e.g HILDA do collect data on children ever born.

However the sample sizes of such surveys are not large enough to allow robust estimates for large numbers of small geographical areas or small population subgroups to be estimated.

Data on children ever born cannot be produced through integration of existing data sources.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

References

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 44578604

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

KEEP: question regarding "what is a person's religion?".

CHANGE OPTIONS:

1. group all Christian religions together; OR
2. second preference: add "Pentecostal" as an option, as this is a growing affiliation; AND
3. add Judaism. This group is different to the other options and holds special historical, global significance.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is very important to continue to ask people what their religious affiliation is.

This data is required for policy development and planning. It may also be used

for research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is value in finding out what religion people identify with, especially in combination with other data collected in the Census. For example, if there is a surge in religious identification in particular age groups, this may affect how to reach these particular age groups with programs targeted at these age groups.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic of religious affiliation is easily understood by respondents and the information can be easily collected.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question regarding religious affiliation is has been a standard question for a long time and should continue.

There is however, a question around accuracy of data collected. Some areas should be grouped, where others should be added.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed change to group all Christian groups together would simplify the form, reducing cost.

If this option is not accepted, a second preference would be to include "Pentecostal" as one of the options. This is a rapidly growing Christian affiliation, particularly amongst younger age groups, which is not the same trend for traditional Christian religions. This would not add significant cost to the Census.

Judaism should have their own tick box. It is distinct to other religions listed.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data regarding religion will be a continuing need. Not only for those working in this field, but policy makers and others servicing these groups.

It will be relevant for the future, as EVERYONE has a religious belief. NOT having affiliation to a religious group still implies religious belief eg. atheism, humanism etc.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This data would be extremely difficult and expensive (not to mention inaccurate) to obtain by other means.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

SUMMARY

KEEP: question regarding "what is a person's religion?".

CHANGE OPTIONS:

1. group all Christian religions together; OR
2. second preference: add "Pentecostal" as an option, as this is a growing affiliation; AND
3. add Judaism. This group is different to the other options and holds special

historical, global significance.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 987180944

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

I am a PhD student and representing a group of people that I am studying

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

I have not collaborated with any organisation with this submission. thank you

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I have working and studying in midwifery and psychology and have undertaken a number of studies about male childlessness. However, there is not data about the number of men who do not have offspring. Other countries such as Norway and others, have approximate data for childless men, however, Australian population data does not include men. There is speculation that there might be equal or more childless men than childless women, but we don't

really know unless we ask men. Thank you.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

data on childless men incorporates more areas of interest than population statistics

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Name

☐

Date of birth or age

☐

Children ever born

☐

Other/don't know

If other please specify

other also includes culture i.e. different cultural groups of men who are childless within the Australian population

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Childlessness is not new, yet the number of childless individuals seems to be increasing. Much of our data tends to focus on women. Increasing research shows that not producing offspring can have psychosocial consequences for men and women, yet we still don't really know how many men in Australia are childless.

Data on male childlessness and female childlessness has implications to health professionals, mental health professionals, local and federal policies, rebates, Assisted reproductive technologies and so forth

Data on male childlessness is poignant for any research on male childlessness, and research that involves the reproductive realm.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on male childlessness is very much needed for :

- general population data,
- cultural perspectives with data on men who are childless from different cultural backgrounds,
- association of age / sexuality / relationship/marriage / work data with childlessness

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question could be the same for women and men, so as not to impose gender bias.

e.g. Have you produced offspring?

Do you have children? [this can be ambiguous with men and women say they have children, but the children might be stepchildren, adopted childcare etc]

As men may not know or unsure or not told if they have offspring, they only would need to tick a box:

Yes/No / unsure/

How many? including zero 0/1/2/3/4/5 .../ 10

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question of 'do you have children?' may be potentially personal and sensitive to some men. Yet, the question is asked of women and can be equally personal and sensitive.

There are some men who would be pleased to be acknowledged in reproductive questions. Not dismissed and left unacknowledged.

Like women, some men may not answer with honesty. Not all women answer with honesty.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As far as I can understand the question should not be difficult to code and can be linked with other census data. The questions are quite straightforward.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic of male childlessness is indeed relevant and is likely to continue to be of interest in the future. I would suggest that might become standard questions as it is for women, to identify trends and comparisons to other countries and changing social trends within the Australian population.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is incomplete or no data on male childlessness in the Australian population that I am aware of.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

From the research and work that I have completed so far [psychology PhD, honours dissertation, midwifery work in reproduction], there are men who would like to be recognised to feel part of the Australian population.

Thank you

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 693165014

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Senior population health researchers from Australian Universities

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Camperdown

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Redacted text Associate Professor, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, School of Public Health, The University of Sydney, and School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales, **Redacted text**, Professor, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Redacted text Professor, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Partnerships), College of Science, Health and Engineering, La Trobe University

Redacted text, University of Melbourne Laureate Professor, Rowden-White Chair of Global Health and Burden of Disease Measurement, and Director, Global Burden of Disease Group, Director, Bloomberg Initiative for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Redacted text Senior Statistician, Cancer Research Division, Cancer Council NSW, Sydney **Redacted text** Doctoral NHMRC and Brawn Career Development Fellow, School of Medicine & Public Health, Faculty of Health & Medicine, University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Redacted text, Senior Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Health, School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

Redacted text Professor, Head, Tobacco Control Research, Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin

Redacted text Professor and Head, School of Public Health, The University of Sydney.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We propose that questions ascertaining the smoking status of census participants be considered for addition to the Australian 2021 Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers

- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Smoking / Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Recent estimates from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report (table shown below) indicate that smoking is responsible for about 1 in 8 of all deaths in Australia (12.8%, 18,762 deaths) in 2011. It is clear tobacco use is the topmost (and most clear-cut single preventable) risk factor in Australia. This is followed by all dietary risks (12.1% of all deaths), blood pressure (9.9%), and physical inactivity (7.8%), where prevention for each is more complex. Tremendous progress has been achieved in reducing smoking rates to 14.5%. While Australia relied on classic epidemiological survey research methods to measure smoking prevalence, risk and use these data in policy and advocacy to reduce smoking rates from say 35% to 15%, the strategies to reduce smoking even further to e.g. 5% need far greater precision than ever before to inform policy and program development.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As eloquently also argued by Thomas and Scollo while national smoking prevalences are currently at 14.5% and declining, there are a number of significant Australian minority groups which have burdens of disease and smoking rates that are double of more the national average. This includes populations in rural and remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island populations, those in lower socioeconomic strata and certain migrant groups. These marginalised populations have significantly higher smoking rates and poorer quitting outcomes than those who are not. , Each of these groups comprises less than 5-10% of the national population, are sometimes overlapping, nationally dispersed and therefore difficult to sample using traditional survey methods.

There are numerous lifestyle surveys from e.g. ABS that include questions on smoking but again, they are small and of low coverage. Such finely targeted estimates of smoking prevalence and risks are rarely available from national sample-based surveys and can only become available using the national census.

Importantly, with Australian initiatives to link census data to mortality records, a unique opportunity exists to develop local precision public health initiatives to estimate the smoking burden in small subgroups of Australian society, and better still, to measure the level of mortality, relative risks and proportions attributed to smoking in each of these groups. While cohort studies such as the 45 and Up Study (the largest in Australia, n=267,000, comprising 10% of NSW, 3% of national population ≥ 45 years) are effective for measuring relative risks of overall deaths in relation to smoking in Australian populations, they are limited in their ability to provide estimates of the prevalence of smoking and proportions of individual causes of deaths caused by smoking in such small subgroups. This is because participants in cohort studies tend to be more health conscious generally and, more specifically, smoke at lower rates than the general population. New Zealand has since 1981 collected smoking information from census participants linked this information to mortality records, and has provided a rich literature using direct, and arguably less biased data on the burden of smoking in that country. Australia relies on indirect, counterfactual estimations of the national smoking burden, which are based on several assumptions therefore prone to variation and critique.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Modest questions on smoking, ascertaining status of never, ex- and current smokers, have been routinely asked in several household Australian surveys and have been accurately collected with low margins of error and little difficulty. Two questions are used in the New Zealand census to obtain three categories of smoker: never, ex-, current. (In the 1981 census number of cigarettes per day was deemed too inaccurate to justify the space.) Of course, such a simple two-question approach may be prone to error, but significant statistical methods have now evolved to make valid comparisons using bias analysis and error correction to retrieve smoking-health associational estimates closer to the truth – e.g. as was done in these two New Zealand studies using cohort analyses of census-smoking-mortality/cancer data. ,

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

In the New Zealand Census, the response rate for the smoking question is greater than 95%

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Provided the questions on smoking are modest, the household head will be able to answer the questions efficiently, i.e. without having to interrogate household members or look up family medical records, files etc. As per question 3 and 4 above.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes. While the overall smoking prevalence in Australia is low by international standards and decreasing, the smoking prevalence in some marginalised sub-groups remain at epidemic levels. For example, ABS estimates indicate nearly half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island living remotely are daily smokers in 2014/15. As the prevalence of smoking continues to fall, the need for ongoing

data to estimate prevalence and change over time in smaller more vulnerable groups of the population will increase. For example, in New Zealand for Māori populations, smoking prevalence data are available by tribe/iwi, which helps add momentum to providing precise local data to enhance tobacco control and monitor results in such fine categories. These data also facilitate the modelling of the effects of introducing different smoking cessation interventions (such as increasing tobacco tax) in population subgroups. Further, having consistent questions like those asked in the New Zealand census will allow for future comparability.

Because of the lengthy time lag between smoking and disease onset, only now are the full hazards of smoking beginning to emerge particularly in women in whom the smoking epidemic tends to lag a decade or more behind that of men: lung cancer for example is now the leading cause of cancer-related death in women and men in Australia. The existence of clinically important and previously under-recognised sex differences in how smoking influences health outcomes are only now emerging because of the maturity of the smoking epidemic in women. Additional questions on smoking-related behaviour and ongoing monitoring of the situation, will provide much needed information to more fully characterise sex differences in smoking-related harm in the Australian population.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is a pervasive view that information such as smoking is routinely and unbiasedly collected via e.g. hospital systems. Published research on this topic shows this to be incorrect. Smoking is occasionally collected in Australian hospital information systems at patient intake but such questions are usually asked when a patient is admitted for diseases that are thought by the doctor to be directly linked to smoking, e.g. respiratory, lung and heart disease. Acute (dead on arrival, emergency department) coronary / stroke events would be missed, and so would several conditions that are partially caused by smoking e.g. digestive cancers, female reproductive organ cancers, and possibly

diabetes. Even if these records are linked to mortality, this approach will cause serious bias in estimations of all deaths and the relative importance of diseases caused by smoking. Information on smoking gathered via GP clinical information systems has not yet been validated in Australia. Obtaining independent information on smoking behaviour (irrespective of someone's health status) by means of a census provides an unbiased way by which this information can be gathered in order to obtain reliable, representative and national results.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 530951264

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

ID Consulting Pty Ltd

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Inclusion of enhanced questions about volunteer work in the Census, beyond the current "Yes/No" style response.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Unpaid care of children
- ☒ Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- ☒ Unpaid work - domestic activities
- ☐ Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

A question on Volunteering has been asked since the 2006 Census, but the question is very broad, and most of our clients gain little use out of it. Apart from broad spatial patterns (generally, volunteers are older, more likely to be born in Australia, and live in regional areas) there is little that can be gleaned from this question due to the broad nature of the question. It only asks whether the person has done volunteer work in the last 12 months for any organisation or group, nothing about the type of organisation, frequency etc.

A 2012 Flinders University study estimated the value of volunteering in the community across Australia at \$290 billion, which would be around 20% of GDP if it was counted in economic terms. There is certainly a national importance in understanding this group, and the value of the sector is recognised in celebrations such as the National Day of Volunteers. Quite a number of Census questions relate to paid employment (labour force status, hours worked, industry, occupation, sector etc.) but only one relates to the volunteer sector and it is very broad. Volunteering is an important contributor to the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, which is the fastest growing in terms of employment, so understanding the contribution of volunteers would enable decision makers to adequately resource this area.

Suggested improvements to the volunteering question, as well as “Has the person volunteered in the last 12 months?” include “What is the frequency of volunteering (weekly, monthly, etc.)?”, “How many hours has the person volunteered in the last month?”, and “For what type of organisation does the person volunteer?”. The last would be a write-in question with mark boxes similar to industry and occupation currently.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Volunteering information is most important at a local level. It is one of the most commonly requested datasets from our Local Government clients at .id – mainly because Local Government has broad responsibility for a lot of community organisations which use volunteers, and often have strategies to engage with the community and encourage volunteering at a range of levels. The current “Yes/No” question doesn’t really provide a lot of insight beyond broad statements about whether the level of volunteering is high or low in the local area. The volunteering page on .id's community profile is not one of the most used pages - with about 12,000 page views in the past year, it ranks 29th of 38 topic pages - but this may be due to the lack of usefulness of the topic in its current form.

Finding out the types and frequency of volunteering in the local community would help these organisations target the programs and increase the level of volunteering with flow on effects for community wellbeing. This can only be done with local small area information available from the national Census.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Volunteering is currently collected on the Census and has been for the past 3 Censuses. The question is very broad, and this may be a response to the difficulty of collecting the information on a self-responder questionnaire. It may be that there is a subset of population who can remember that they volunteered, but not remember for whom or how long. The more complexity is added to these questions, the more difficult this would be to self-report.

However similarly detailed questions are asked successfully in the employment section of the Census – eg. Hours worked and occupation. The difficulty may be in the recency of this – eg. The question on employment asks how many hours are worked in the past week. For volunteering it’s likely the question would need to relate to a longer period to capture all activity. This may cause issues with memory, but could probably be field tested. It seems unlikely that

the question would be considered too intrusive or sensitive.

The main issue may be a perception of what constitutes volunteering – and the question may need some guidelines for this. This is already an issue with the question in its current form. Some parts of the community may volunteer by an objective definition, but may just consider this helping our friends or relatives and not formal volunteering, so there's a chance that this isn't captured. The lower rates of volunteering seen in culturally diverse communities may provide evidence of that. Some cultures don't have a tradition of volunteering in a formal sense, but a high level of participation in the community which they may call something else.

Our respondents in the Local Government and community sectors are most concerned with this type of volunteering. Volunteering Australia states that any time given to the community is a form of volunteering – so in order to formally represent this for advocacy in a local area – a change in wording of the question may be required. In its current form the question makes this difficult. Even a change in wording of the broader current question would be welcomed by these groups. Of course this would constitute a break in series for time series data, but in its current form, if no changes are proposed, the question is of limited use and the space on the Census may be better off given to something else.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Volunteering is not controversial and is unlikely to be considered intrusive by most respondents. The main issue may be some frustration with the question, perhaps a lack of understanding by respondents about what constitutes volunteering and perhaps a higher non-response rate due to that. This could be alleviated by question wording and guidelines, but inevitably moving towards a more complex question set will lead to more difficulty here and further field testing would be required.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Questions on the frequency and hours of volunteering could be collected without significant new classifications or coding. A question on the type of organisation volunteered for would require substantial coding and possibly a new classification. It may be able to be coded to ANZSIC using an existing framework similar to the Industry topic. However it still represents another question with substantial human coding required to interpret responses. It is possible a classification different to ANZSIC with more resolution around the community sector rather than businesses might be needed. I'm not sure whether this classification exists. If not it would be substantial work to create this.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It's worth noting that the current volunteering question has shown minimal change over time. The rate of volunteering nationally has changed within 1 percentage point (17 to 18%) over the past 10 years. So it is fairly stable and the only real use for this has been broad comparisons between areas. It's likely however that this stability is representative of the broad nature of the question.

While the overall rate of those who volunteer in the past 12 months hasn't changed much, there may be structural change in the hours, types of organisations etc. related to the changes in the labour market and availability of leisure/free time in the population. Time series would therefore most likely continue to be useful to bring out these patterns.

However if the question remains the same as currently, it's less clear that time series will be useful in the future, and the question could potentially be dropped or asked less frequently.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As noted by our client feedback at .id – some information is available as an alternative. Agencies such as Volunteering Australia do keep track of “formal” volunteering and a survey/admin collection from such agencies could provide substantial information on the sector. However this will still miss the “informal” sector, which is likely to make up a majority of volunteering. Such data could be collected via a survey, but there is probably no other reasonable source due to the ad-hoc nature and lack of a need to register as a volunteer in these informal settings.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please

comment below.

Further comments

Thanks for the opportunity to submit suggestions for the volunteering topic. Below is the feedback verbatim from one of our client correspondents which led to this submission.

Hi Glenn and Lailani. You may already collect data on the number of people who volunteer, if you don't please collect volunteering data. In 2012, Flinders University estimated the number of volunteers and assigned a \$ benefit to the community of \$290 billion. The challenge will be the type of volunteering that is done and where. If a person volunteers for a community agency such as a local op shop, that is recorded and agencies like mine that find and place volunteers keep that data. But I suspect that thousands of hours are not being recorded for the informal volunteering that occurs in a community. For example, many people "help out" at local sports clubs but don't see that as volunteering and that never gets recorded. As a result, volunteering is under reported and seen by governments as largely irrelevant and this gives them permission to not properly fund a service that is vital to communities. The Department of Social Services has indicated that it will not fund volunteering agencies beyond 2021. At South East Volunteers, we have been promoting the Volunteering Australia definition that states that any time given to a community or activity is volunteering. So it would be useful to ask if people volunteer formally or "help out" and record that as volunteering too.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 509393488

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Returned & Services League of Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This topic seeks to obtain data on in relation to the number of men and women that have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force, providing statistical information relevant to the provision of service and support by both the Department of Veteran Affairs and all Ex Service Organisations (ESOs) across Australia

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Service in Australian Defence Force

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data collected by inclusion of this topic will enable the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA), the Returned & Service League of Australia and other ESOs the information needed in identifying where this demographic is located within Australia and how best to deploy important assets required to provide welfare and support services to cater to the needs of both serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families. Anecdotal evidence currently indicates that there are many ex-ADF members in remote locations and areas of Australia and the data gathered will provide

information on where specialist professional support is required to support the needs of this cohort.

In recognition of their service the Australian Government in 2001 granted veterans "special needs status" under the Aged Care Act 1997. The definition of a veteran under this act is all inclusive of persons that served in the ADF, their partners, widows/ers and dependents based on the sacrifices and hardships endured by their service and the service of their partners.

The "special needs" status relates to planning and allocation of aged care facilities, specialist medical and mental health support, the data collected will be an invaluable tool to government, non government groups and medical providers.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data collected will enable the creation of a demographic profile by region and state areas enabling the specific targeting of relevant support services specific to the needs of the growing veteran community.

Whilst some data is available from within DVA, this information is relevant only to those currently supported by the Department and does not provide information on those ex-serving members that do not at present need or require specific support. Having the information at a regional through to state level will enable decisions to be made by Government Departments and Agencies, such as DVA, Department of Health and Aging and State Health Departments to plan and develop necessary support based on indicative data

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

There are no sufficient alternative data sources available for this topic. While the Department of Defence would be able to provide the number of persons who have served in the Australian Defence Force, names, if given by the Department, would then need to be manually cross referenced with the Department of Births, Deaths and Marriages to determine if the individuals were still alive.

Likewise, the Department of Veterans' Affairs have detailed statistics in relation to persons receiving DVA entitlement; however we know that not all veterans have such entitlements and are thus outside the DVA catchment population. This would particularly be the case where the veteran has no disability entitlement and has either chosen to use Centrelink rather than DVA for payment of an aged (or service) pension or the veteran is not eligible for income support due to own private financial means.

The only other method of collecting this data would be to cross reference information from the Department of Defence with other government sources, such as taxation or Centrelink records, electoral rolls, or death records. Such detailed cross checking is not within the resources of the ex-service organisations and it may not be within the capability of government computing resources.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question proposed is suitable for inclusion in the census.

Have you served as a member of Australia's defence force?

This question is unequivocally a 'Yes' or 'No' response. It is not subjective, does not seek an opinion on the topic, does not test memory, and is not likely to cause a perception of invading privacy.

The second or supplementary component to the question is again straight forward, if the answer to the first question is YES, then the second question:

Did you serve overseas, if yes where (or when)?

Again, it is not a complex question and will not require long explanation or instruction to ensure an accurate answer. For those who served in the Australian Defence Force, this question is easily recalled and responded to. For those suffering dementia, this information would also be known by their families thus eliminating as much bias as possible.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As previously stated the topic can be answered with two Yes or No answers and should not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census.

Since 1999 there has been a significant increase in the number of people serving in the ADF, many with Overseas Operational and Peace Keeping Service and as such, having accurate data to demonstrate the need for veteran services or assistance, at both local and state level, would be extremely beneficial to the government, care providers and ex-service organisations. With the ageing of the population, including the ex-service community, it would be beneficial to update the data in a future Census.

The uniqueness of the veteran population is that it is ageing faster than the general population, with a high percentage of men over 80 years of age not entitled to benefits through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA); however, as previously stated, we know the figures are much higher than just those with DVA entitlement.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As previously stated since 1999 there has been a significant increase in the number of people serving in the ADF, many with Overseas Operational and Peace Keeping Service and as such, having accurate data to demonstrate the need for veteran services or assistance, at both local and state level, would be extremely beneficial to the government, care providers and ex-service organisations.

The veteran population is continuing to grow and the gathering, update and collation this data will be beneficial in all future Census

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As previously stated there is no specific or sufficient alternate gathering method of this data.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 799329899

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Private business representing Local government clients

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

ID Consulting Pty Ltd

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The suggestion to include a question or questions on long-term health conditions experienced by the population in the Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

One of the most common questions asked of .id during our presentations on our community profile tools to Local Government is whether there is any information available on health topics. Generally this isn't presented in the profile, as the Census has nothing on health beyond the "Need for assistance" question, addressed under our disability submission.

We recognise that collecting health information via the Census is difficult, but there is clearly substantial demand for this from Local Government. The National Health Survey has a lot of information on health conditions, and would likely remain the primary source for detailed information, due to the availability of an interviewer-based survey. The fact that this survey is collected every 3 years shows that the topic is of national significance and is likely to remain so.

National debates on health focus on two areas – provision of health services such as hospitals and aged care, and the prevalence of preventable lifestyle diseases and other long-term conditions. The provision of services are addressed to a large extent by current Census data, as they are mainly population/demographic based. Long term health conditions seems to be the most likely area in which the Census could have an impact. The complexity of health issues notwithstanding, we believe that the Census could collect information on a limited range of conditions which are widely discussed in the community and could be the focus for national debate.

This could include, but not be limited to:

- Diabetes (Type 1 and 2)
- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- Obesity
- Mental Health – depression etc.
- Allergies
- Skin cancer
- Osteoporosis
- Asthma
- Other allergies

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This information is already available in quite a lot of detail at the national and

state level. The deficiency is local level information, specific to those areas of health that local authorities (local government and community organisations) can have an impact on, through management and education programs. For this purpose, small area data and data cross-tabulated by demographic sub-groups is of critical importance, hence the need to use the Census as a vehicle.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is the primary difficulty with collecting health data in the Census. Health topics and definitions are inherently complex, and there may be a level of uncertainty and subjectivity to how a person answers – particularly for things like obesity and mental health.

For this reason, we think that the Census data on health, if included, should be limited to a few key diagnosed conditions which should be relatively unambiguous to respondents. This should be able to produce meaningful information at the local level. This should also be limited to “suffering from now” rather than questions about past – as this will then give a snapshot at a point in time on the total prevalence and be easier to answer. The National Health Survey could continue to be the vehicle for more detailed information on past and present conditions, but the Census data could then more readily be used to model this to small area levels.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

A question on health conditions may be considered intrusive to some. In the debates around privacy for the 2016 Census, these mostly centred on name and address collection and identification of individuals.

Health data is protected by strong privacy provisions and most people would consider it confidential, so there may be some issues if respondents didn't consider their details to be kept confidential by the ABS. There is also the issue of multiple people using the same form, and perhaps not wanting to share this information with other householders. There are provisions for this in the online form and via personal forms in group households and NPDs which can alleviate this issue with other Census questions, but we need to acknowledge that health is probably a bit more sensitive again. Limiting to a set of pre-defined conditions with no "Other" option might assist with this, or (an alternative view) could in fact make this worse - making particular groups of people feel like they're being targeted.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

For the broader health topic there would be substantial expense associated with coding and classifying (though it's noted that the infrastructure for the NHS already covers a lot of this). But limiting to a few long-term conditions of national importance would limit this.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The main value of this data would actually in be having a time series – the purpose of looking at health data is to attempt to influence outcomes in the community, and what needs to be monitored is whether it's getting better or worse. So if health information is to be collected at all, it must be in time series, hence a continuing need. The National Health Survey is run every three years on a regular cycle to enable this analysis.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The National Health Survey and Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers are clearly two alternative sources from the ABS at a national level, and provide a greater level of detail than the Census is ever likely to be able to, in terms of conditions, type and severity, frequency etc. They lack information at the local level which is why the Census would be a good adjunct to this – combining

Census data on these conditions with detailed survey data might also be useful.

Some states have comprehensive health surveys (Eg. Victoria) which can produce some information at a local level – but this is patchy at a national level.

Other sources would be admin-by-product data such as Medicare treatment records. This suffers from two problems – privacy issues are likely to make it very difficult to collect, and it will only capture those who seek medical treatment (having said that, the question as proposed may not capture people who haven't been medically diagnosed anyway).

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Thanks for the opportunity to submit on health. It's one of the most commonly requested topics to include in the Census from our client base, but we recognise it's not an easy topic to collect on a self-responded form. Hopefully this submission is useful in addressing some of these issues. While it's not a comprehensive framework for including health data in the Census it can be a starting point for discussion.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 989939732

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

State government non-departmental public sector agency

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Health Performance Council [South Australia]

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Health Performance Council is South Australia's only external review body with a statutory function to provide expert advice to the state's Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the operation of the state's health system and of health outcomes for South Australians. To discharge our functions effectively, we require access to good, accurate, useful data.

We are concerned that the question asked on the 2016 census 'Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' conflates multiple concepts into a single, ambiguous, question and hence is inadequate to allow collection of accurate, useful data for analysis of the numbers and social-economic attributes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We suggest that much valuable nuance in the data collected can be had simply by splitting the question into two, along the lines of the following:

1) Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? [response options

as on 2016 Census]

[Only if one or both 'yes' boxes marked in response to question 1]

2) Has the person always known that they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

a. Yes – they have always known.

b. No – they have not always known.

c. Unsure.

The addition of this second question would allow for a critical distinction to be made in analyses between all people of Indigenous origin and those people carrying a particular burden of enduring trans-generational trauma.

We have provided further information in support of our submission against the assessment criteria in the questions that follow.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Knowledge of the size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is used in the generation of public policy. The cross-jurisdictional Closing the Gap initiative continues to seek to make progress against targets for reducing inequalities of outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. State and territory governments have also set and monitor progress against targets for opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal people [example: limited monitoring data for Aboriginal life expectancy in South Australia is available at <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/sasp-target-53-aboriginal-employees>]. Setting and monitoring progress against these targets requires good, meaningful, high quality data.

It has been estimated that there are more than 1,000 different Indigenous programs funded by government and NGOs [Hudson S, 2016. Mapping the Indigenous program and funding maze. The Centre for Independent Studies]. The planning, delivery, funding and evaluation of these programmes is dependent on there being good estimates of the number of Aboriginal people who may be eligible to receive their services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The South Australian Health Performance Council has a duty to report on health outcomes not only for South Australians in aggregate but for particular

population groups – especially those often considered marginalised and vulnerable. The Aboriginal population is, in any case, small: the 2016 Census estimates 2.8% of the Australian population, and just 2.0% of the South Australian population [Based on ABS data, 2017. 2016 Census Counts - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, cat. no. 2075.0].

We know that in remote and lightly populated areas there are pockets of poor service provision and poor outcomes [example, not specific to Aboriginal people: Health Performance Council [South Australia], 2017. Hotspots of potentially preventable hospitalisations in South Australia's public hospitals]. Without universal coverage to allow for small area analyses, we would not be able to produce similarly insightful reports at geographically local levels.

We cannot perform our duties effectively to monitor and evaluate performance and outcomes for these and other small subgroups of our population without the universal coverage that only the Census provides. A peril of such small numbers is an inability to drill down to perform subgroup analyses, allowing much disparity to be hidden in the high level averages; the collection of data from a whole of population Census at least mitigates these issues as far as is possible.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Official estimates of Aboriginal populations have been made from the Census since 1971 [Source: ABS, 2018. Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Topics, 2021, cat. no. 2007.0] and the single question on identified origin has been on the Census in its current form since 1981 [Source: ABS, 2016. Census of Population and Housing: Census Dictionary, 2016, cat. no. 2901.0].

The subsidiary question that we propose echoes much of the wording of the existing, well tried and tested, question. It asks for personal information that can reasonably be assumed to be able to be answered without pause or the need to refer to other sources of knowledge.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As we note in our response to assessment criteria 3, a question on this topic has been on the Census since 1971 and in its current form since 1981. The addition of a secondary question, subsidiary to that already asked, does not on its face disclose any reason for its being found unacceptable to respondents any more than would the existing question. Furthermore, splitting out two conflated concepts from one existing question should make it easier for respondents to answer accurately without having to apply so much subjective interpretation as at present.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed additional question seeks information which can be expected to be known and answerable from objective knowledge. Accordingly, it should not require extensive explanation or instruction.

There is a straightforward response coding disclosed directly by the proposed question, almost analogous to the coding categories for the existing Indigenous Status variable, being one of six options: 1 = always known; 2 = not always known; 3 = unsure; 9 = both always and not always marked; & = not stated; V = overseas visitor.

It is accepted that there would exist a challenge in determining how best to

code either or both Aboriginal origin data items for Census returns with certain inconsistencies, for example where a Non-Indigenous response is given to the current question but a substantive recency of knowledge response is given to the new question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The Health Performance Council believes that the need for data on this topic will be enduring for the reasons given in the responses against the other assessment criteria, and especially because of its being of ongoing national importance.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We know of no other existing data collection that is allows for the particular subgroup analyses that we believe are necessary. As we note in our response

to assessment criteria 2, it is necessary that this data be collected through the Census because of the need to enable small area analysis and cross-tabulation analysis with other Census data items that go to a range of social and economic determinants of health.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

It is well established that there has been a long-standing and continuing problem with the population Census undercounting the Aboriginal population of Australia. Although the Census population counts generally have been summarily considered to be broadly fit for purpose and able to be used with confidence, the net undercount of the Indigenous population in the 2016 Census, at 17.5%, was thrice that of the non-Indigenous population and the need to improve the enumeration of the Aboriginal population has been clearly recommended [Harding, Jackson Pulver, et. al., 2017. Report on the Quality of 2016 Census Data. Census Independent Assurance Panel to the Australian Statistician]. The sizable undercount, in both absolute terms and relative to that of the population count more generally, has been a sustained and unsolved issue [ibid.].

The systematic historic undercount of Aboriginal people in past Census collections has devalued the utility of the compiled statistics for point-in-time preparation and evaluation of public policy. The growth over time in the number of people identifying in successive Censuses as of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin is welcome inasmuch as it suggests better willingness for respondents to identify as Aboriginal and their better knowledge of their ancestry, but it is also problematic for trend analyses. To the extent that growth is driven by greater awareness by people of their backgrounds, there is

therefore a growing data quality dissonance: on the one hand, the compiled statistics can be ever-better approximations of the true population count of people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin; on the other hand, there is an ever worse ability to use this data item as a good proxy for people living with the sustained life-long inter-generational trauma inherent in having lived with knowledge of such origins since birth. The coherence of time-series analysis is being undermined as is the ability to develop and monitor the implementation of policies that rely on this data.

The impact of the current data quality problem is particularly noticeable when monitoring outcomes measures at the whole-of-Aboriginal population level. All else being equal, a rise across the board in people identifying an Aboriginal origin would manifest as an apparent improvement in outcomes measures: for instance, it will be seen that employment participation rates will rise and apparent life expectancy gaps will narrow. Yet these apparent improvements will actually be biased by the defects in the Census question, the desired time-series polluted by dint of the changes in the underlying population being measured, changes which are hidden by the conflation of the multiple concepts in the single Census question.

We have noted, in our response against Assessment criteria 1, that good temporally-coherent data is necessary to be able to set and monitor progress against important opportunity and outcomes targets and to monitor and evaluate inequities which exist for subsets of our population. We have noted the sizable and growing data quality concerns which result from the current, single, question on Aboriginal origin and the impact on developing and monitoring public policy and achieving greater societal equity. We submit that the widening schism in the data quality issues arising from conflating multiple issues in a single question may be neatly addressed by the addition of the second question that we propose. Furthermore, we submit that this split of the existing single question is likely to improve the quality of the data collected in the census by removing ambiguity and embodying in each question just a single concept. We urge its inclusion in the next Census.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 317219228

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Adelaide

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission addresses the potential to include questions on the topic of health.

There is considerable activity undertaken by Local Governments to promote public health.

For the City of Adelaide, and other LGAs, this has extended to planning and programs to enhance the wellbeing and resilience of their populations.

While there are existing data collections that collect information of this type, it is best applied at State and National level and not suitable to inform planning and projects at the LGA level, especially LGAs with small resident populations.

Local Government typically undertakes this type of research themselves through household or resident surveys, often in conjunction with questions on satisfaction with, and the relative importance of, various council services and facilities, perceptions of safety and so on.

Inclusion in the Census would provide a valuable and authoritative data source on key aspects of health and wellbeing in local communities.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data around health and wellbeing would be useful to support policy development, planning and programs for the City of Adelaide and other Local Government Areas that are undertaking activity to promote the health and enhance the wellbeing and resilience of their populations. Quality data underpins policy and program development and advocacy to other levels of Government for services and facilities that meet community needs and aspirations.

A range of non-Government service providers would also benefit from quality data for their advocacy, planning and policy purposes.

We note in the 'Other' Topic brief that self-assessed health status has already been raised by stakeholders. We see value in the Census including such as question.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

We acknowledge that there are other data collections that address the health of populations. At the National level the National Health Survey and the General Social Survey are both relevant. In South Australia, we have the South Australian Monitoring and Surveillance System (SAMSS). In all cases these sample surveys cannot produce data viable for use by low population LGAs.

Asking questions of the whole population would ensure that there was data suitable for use at the LGA level.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We acknowledge that inclusions of the theme of health and wellbeing could not be comprehensive and that the need for separate data collections would remain.

The Census provides a highly regarded, sound and authoritative source of information. It is a very well used and respected source of information about usual resident populations. For the City of Adelaide, it is our preferred data source whenever possible.

We have considered the types of questions that could work in a Census and have steered away from 'perception' questions to factual ones that are consistent with the style of existing Census questions. We respect that the overall burden on households to complete the Census should not be unduly increased. City of Adelaide has a deep interest in acquiring data to indicate community wellbeing in relation to physical activity, nutrition and sleep.

- In the past week, on average, how many hours of sleep did Person X have each night?
- How many serves of vegetables did Person X consume in the past week?
- How many minutes of physical activity did Person X do in the last week? (With responses in ranges up to the recommended 150 minutes and then beyond)

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

We consider the questions to be simple and answerable. Some explanation would need to be given. For example, what constitutes a serve of vegetables. Questions of this type have been used in other surveys so we consider it

unlikely that respondents would find them intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

There is not a large number of response categories to include and processing of responses would be relatively simple and efficient.

Detailed instruction or explanation of the questions should not be required, although there would be a need for a definition of a serve of vegetables, and for 'physical activity'. Aside from that, the concepts are likely to be familiar to respondents. They don't rely on the person knowing what the recommended amount is.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The City of Adelaide considers that this topic is likely to remain relevant into the future. Our City and other cities, large and small, have an enduring interest in building communities and strengthening the capacity of individuals and communities to manage and to respond and prosper in the face of growth and change. Key elements of human life – eating well, sleeping enough, and undertaking physical activity – are enduring

Time series data on the topic would be useful for planning and as an indicator of our progress towards our community wellbeing goals.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This criteria is addressed at Assessment Criteria 2.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 316688050

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Shire of Plantagenet

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Nil.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The number and size of vehicles in a household would assist our long term

planning with regard to road construction, road maintenance and whether a road may require sealing in coming years.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒

Mode of travel to work

☒

Name and address of workplace attended

☐

Number of motor vehicles

☒

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

These data would assist us to plan for the future with regard to where roads should be, whether they need to be sealed or left unsealed. To some degree we can acquire the information through traffic counters, but with over 1,200 km of roads (900 km unsealed) it is logistically difficult to get road counts that can be compared with previous years.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Every household with vehicles would need to complete the questions to develop adequate data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I imagine the questions would be quick and easy.

1. How many cars form part of your household?
2. For each car, tick whether it is small, medium or large.
3. For each truck tick whether it is small, semi-trailer, b-double or larger?
4. For each motorcycle tick the engine capacity.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question lends itself to either/or type answers and then box ticking.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

For myself the answers would be quick and easy.

Three cars and one motorcycle. This would be followed by the tick boxes.

This lends itself to coding ease, quick processing and would probably be one of the first results out.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes. From the point of view of local government, trends could be detected from the five year census span. It would remain relevant whether or not more vehicles became electric or autonomous.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Potentially the data could be retrieved from the various Departments of Transport across the country who handle vehicle licensing information. I am not aware of information being disseminated to street level though.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

No. that should be enough.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 363275469

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

ACT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ)
Ministerial Advisory Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

None, but we are indebted to the work of the LGBTI Health Alliance, whose work we draw heavily on.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The LGBTIQ Ministerial Advisory Council ('the Council') acknowledges the

initial attempt, made in the 2016 Census, to allow the sex and gender diversity of Australians to be reflected.

However, despite accompanying review notes demonstrating that the ABS understands there is an inherent difference between the concepts of 'sex' and 'gender', the 2016 census went ahead with a question that conflated these two concepts.

The Council understands that this consultation is not about methodology, but the fact that the response category 'other' in the 'male/female' question required a respondent to make special contact with an ABS hotline is in direct contradiction to your own Assessment criterion 5 "the topic can be collected efficiently" and Criterion 4 "the topic would be acceptable to census respondents". It would surely not be acceptable to many people to be instructed that their response is too difficult/special/controversial to be collected in the standard way. Therefore, whatever the intent behind this approach, it appears that respondents found the "Other" response in the 2016 survey somewhat stigmatising. Council also notes that there are many potential question setups that signal the intention to give visibility to gender diverse people, but fail in that they mix concepts that aren't mutually exclusive and force respondents to give answers that aren't fully accurate. This is a concept that is explored as we address each of the assessment criteria below:

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As an advisory committee for the ACT government we wish to identify areas of need for the local LGBTIQ community and promote sound evidence based policies and service delivery to address those needs. We need service provision and resources to be directed in a way that is data driven - if, owing to being of small population, our Territory does not have the appropriate research base, we are happy to extrapolate from national figures. However, if there are no quality statistics at all about the communities who request our assistance, then how do we justify any resource allocation to them, when we know anecdotally that they exist? We know that gender diverse and intersex people live in our area and pay taxes, yet the idea of state or federal service provision for them (e.g. a gender clinic for transgender people), or that include them (gender diversity training for community workers), or policies about them (e.g. a hospitals policy around 'cosmetic' surgery on intersex infants) needs to be underpinned by data of the reach and quality that we know only the ABS can provide.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

These data are often thought of as pertaining to a small population group - but given that the only thing we can surmise from the 2016 census is that there was a massive undercount in the 'Other' response category, it is hard to estimate the population. So we still have no idea how many gender non-binary, transgender or intersex people live in this country (NB those three categories are not mutually exclusive, which is addressed later in this submission). Local surveys (including one in the ACT) have demonstrated large unemployment and under-employment in the transgender and gender diverse community. Employment is an issue of national importance and policy is set at a Federal level - therefore it is proportionate that it is included in a national Census. The fact that the Census already captures income and employment data means understanding the link with gender diverse people would be a statistically simple exercise.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A question that conflates sex and gender identity will inherently yield inaccurate data.

The notion that 'male' or 'female' confers on the respondent some specific physical characteristics is not entirely accurate. For instance, if a transgender man was answering the census he would respond with 'male'. For understanding the population through the lens of 'gender identity' then it serves the purpose. However, if a purpose is to use data for health service planning, then there would need to be a significant accuracy caveat. A transgender man would not ever require prostate cancer screening or treatment, but his 'male' response would've been used in the prostate cancer resource planning. Conversely, the same man would require cervical screening but his existence wouldn't have been noticed by a health service planner counting the number of

‘females’ in a geographical area.

This criterion does speak to the accuracy of “collection” of data , but ultimately the accuracy of this data item rests in its ability to be accurate in each context in which it is used, not just at the point of collection.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The wording of any response categories beyond ‘male’ or ‘female’ needs to be considered sensitively. The nomenclature should also reflect the structure of the question(s) (for example, questions about having an intersex variation may exist completely separately to a standard male/female gender identity question, or other structures may include conditional logic to branch between questions).

There are some sample questions/question structures available in this document from the AIDS Action Council

<https://aidsaction.org.au/images/resource-library/LGBTIQ%20Inclusive%20Data%20Collection%20-%20a%20Guide.pdf>

If a gender identity question were to contain response categories “Male; Female; Intersex” then a women who happens to have been born with an intersex variation will be presented with a false choice: She can either accurately assert that her gender identity is female OR she can accurately assert that she has an intersex variation. Neither answer gives the full story, and even worse, the survey designers would have fallen into the trap of believing that the response categories would yield a count of intersex people in Australia...when in fact there would be a massive undercount. This scenario demonstrates how good intentions lead to inaccurate data.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As stated in the overview, the ABS already created inefficiencies for itself with the 'Other' response in the 2016 Census. Our recommendation is not to use this method again.

It is not council's recommendation to have a panoply of the latest terms and descriptors in one long list of response categories, lest anyone feel excluded. This could produce a backlash amongst some (cisgender) responders and that would also create inaccuracies. Council understands that first and foremost the collection must serve its purpose, and that creating a big list of LGBTIQ identity terms would not achieve that. However, the very fact that the ABS has invited feedback on this specific question demonstrates that the entire purpose of counting 'males' or 'females' needs to be re-examined.

Our society instinctively believes that 'males' and 'females' is a crucial social disaggregator. We find value in being able to extrapolate that say, "x% of males drive to work but only y% of females do", however we don't ask or care what proportion of left-handed people drive to work, or redheads, etc, etc. Why is "assumed-genital-morphology-at-birth" (aka sex/gender) of such interest when it comes to driving habits, (or countless other social signifiers)?

This is a philosophical question that is beyond this respondent's remit to address, but it is being raised here to underline the point about the utility of the final product, i.e. the data collected.

IF the ABS is serious about being able to understand the lives of those who live outside the comforts of a cisgender, endosex existence (and we believe it should be), then it behoves the organisation to pay respect to the structure and granularity of the answers, and not fall into the trap of believing that being intersex or transgender are types of gender identity when they are not.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Any survey of young people that addresses gender identity will yield a significant (and often surprising) number of respondents who classify themselves as non-binary or some identity other than male or female. These are the generation of people who will be filling in their own census surveys for the first time in 2021 and crucial social, administrative and physical aspects of their lives will not be accurately represented unless this topic is addressed properly.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to provide feedback. For a further, fully referenced examination of this topic, the ACT LGBTIQ Ministerial Advisory council recommends that the ABS note the following paper:
Ansara, Y. G. (2016). Making the count: Addressing data integrity gaps in Australian standards for collecting sex and gender information [White paper]. Newtown: National LGBTI Health Alliance. Available at: www.lgbtihealth.org.au



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 950095197

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

National Peak Body

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Volunteering Australia

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

N/A

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Volunteering Australia aims to outline our reasons on why the Census question on volunteering needs to be updated to reflect the evolution of volunteering in Australia.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒

Unpaid care of children

☒

Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person

☒

Unpaid work - domestic activities

☐

Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group

☒

Other/unknown

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKP9-W.pdf](#)

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Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 605760098

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Prosper Australia

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Dear ABS,

We would like to see the 'site analysis form' for census surveyors include a section for vacant land. At present vacant land sites are not currently recorded. On-the-ground surveyors could easily record the existence of a vacant site with the tick of a box.

With the property data gold rush in full swing, it is important there is a public record of vacant sites. This is very useful for land use analysis regarding a suite of public policy outcomes, including in respect of housing affordability.

With state and federal governments employing charges on vacant property, this data collection node would be of interest to public servants and policy analysts alike.

Redacted text

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Vacant land

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☒ Structure and types of dwellings

☐ Homelessness

☒ Housing costs

☒ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Prosper Australia employed nil water usage to assess vacant homes, but vacant sites are also integral to a proper assessment of potential housing.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 84622010

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Dear ABS,

As a member of Prosper Australia, I would like to see the 'site analysis form' for census surveyors include a section for vacant land. At present vacant land sites are not currently recorded. On-the-ground surveyors could easily record the existence of a vacant site with the tick of a box.

With the property data gold rush in full swing, it is important there is a public record of vacant sites. This is very useful for land use analysis regarding a suite of public policy outcomes, including in respect of housing affordability.

With state and federal governments employing charges on vacant property, this data collection node would be of interest to public servants and policy analysts

alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☐ Structure and types of dwellings

☐ Homelessness

☐ Housing costs

☐ Number of bedrooms

☐ Internet access

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is important there is a public record of vacant sites.

This is very useful for land use analysis regarding a suite of public policy outcomes, including in respect of housing affordability.

With state and federal governments employing charges on vacant property, this data collection node would be of interest to public servants and policy analysts alike.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is important there is a public record of vacant sites. This is very useful for land use analysis regarding a suite of public policy outcomes, including in respect of housing affordability.

With state and federal governments employing charges on vacant property, this data collection node would be of interest to public servants and policy analysts alike.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The 'site analysis form' for census surveyors could include a section for vacant land. At present vacant land sites are not currently recorded. On-the-ground surveyors could easily record the existence of a vacant site with the tick of a box.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Census respondents are not impacted by this topic or the recording of this data

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The 'site analysis form' for census surveyors could include a section for vacant land. At present vacant land sites are not currently recorded. On-the-ground surveyors could easily record the existence of a vacant site with the tick of a box.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It is important there is a public record of vacant sites. This is very useful for land use analysis regarding a suite of public policy outcomes, including in respect of housing affordability.

With state and federal governments employing charges on vacant property, this data collection node would be of interest to public servants and policy analysts alike.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

At present vacant land sites are not currently recorded, so there is no other alternative at present

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 780522802

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Menzies School of Health Research

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Our submission is supported by these organisations:
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations (including the majority of Aboriginal community controlled health organisations with regional tobacco teams):
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Redacted text, National Coordinator Tackling Indigenous Smoking program
Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, Tennant Creek, NT
Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Cairns, QLD
Awabakal, Newcastle, NSW
Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service, Ballina, NSW
Carbal Medical Services, Toowoomba, QLD
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs, NT
Danila Dilba Biluru Butji Binnilutlum Health Service, Darwin, NT
Flinders Island Aboriginal Association, Flinders Island, TAS
Galambila Aboriginal Health Service, Coffs Harbour, NSW
Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, Brisbane, QLD
3
Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation, Katherine, NT
Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, Broome, WA
Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association, Lakes Entrance, VIC

Maari Ma Health, Broken Hill, NSW
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Nhulunbuy, NT
National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Sydney, NSW
North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health, Maroochydore, QLD

Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
Pangula Mannamurna, Mt Gambier, SA
Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, Newman, WA
South Coast Aboriginal Medical Service, Nowra, NSW
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Melbourne, VIC
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Melbourne, VIC
Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service, Wellington, NSW

Health professional associations:
Australasian Epidemiological Association
Australian Dental Association
Australian Health Promotion Association
Australian Medical Association
Public Health Association of Australia
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand

Health and welfare organisations:
Asthma Australia
Australian Council of Social Service
Australian Council on Smoking and Health
Cancer Council Australia
Lung Foundation Australia
National LGBTI Health Alliance
Stroke Foundation
Victorian AIDS Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We propose a question on smoking status among Australians aged 15 years and older in the 2021 Census.

The rationale for adding this question has been described in a recent editorial in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.¹

Even though national smoking prevalence has decreased, smoking remains a leading cause of preventable death and disease.

The inclusion of a question on smoking prevalence in the Census was one of the recommendations of the

National Preventative Health Taskforce in 2009.² Regular population surveys such as the National Health

Survey³ and the National Drug Strategy Household Survey⁴ provide reliable data on national trends in

smoking prevalence, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health⁵ and Social Surveys⁶ on national

trends in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. However, the capacity of such surveys to

provide reliable estimates for sub-groups with known high smoking prevalence is limited. Given the

Census includes almost the entire population, it would allow more detailed analyses of the social

patterning of smoking with no sampling error. Census data would enable accurate estimates of smoking

prevalence for small geographical areas and small sub-populations. This has become increasingly

important as smoking becomes more concentrated in disadvantaged groups, and as tobacco control

increasingly needs to use streamlined approaches.⁷

The inclusion of a smoking question is practical. The ABS has accurately asked acceptable questions

about smoking in population health surveys for decades.^{3,5} Two questions on smoking have been

included in the past three New Zealand Censuses.⁸

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Even though national daily smoking prevalence has decreased to 12% of Australians aged 14 and over,⁴ smoking is still responsible for 9% of Australia's burden of disease, more than any other risk factor.⁹ All Australian health ministers have endorsed Australia's National Tobacco Strategy.¹⁰ Australia

has committed to monitoring trends in smoking as part of its obligations as a signatory to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention of Tobacco Control.¹¹ As Australian tobacco control moves towards the 'Endgame', increasing policy attention is on smaller disadvantaged groups with higher smoking prevalence.

Census data on smoking prevalence would allow more detailed analyses of smoking patterns in small population groups and geographic areas than is possible with existing datasets (see criteria 2 below for further detail). This is important to support development of targeted tobacco control initiatives and to monitor the impact of existing programs. An example is the national Tackling Indigenous Smoking program, which spends most of its funding on 37 regional teams.¹² Currently, these regional teams do not have accurate local data that allows policy-makers to assess progress or to evaluate progress compared to areas without regional teams. Census data would meet this need and the similar needs for developing and monitoring tobacco control initiatives for other population sub-groups, such as Australians from various cultural and language backgrounds or with severe economic disadvantage.

In the National Tobacco Strategy, policy makers have prioritised strengthening tobacco control activities among populations with a high prevalence smoking.¹³ While it is difficult to isolate what factors have led to decisions about the distribution of tobacco control resourcing and activities, there is some evidence that smoking prevalence data can be influential and that more detailed data from a Census question is needed. The experience from the national Tackling Indigenous Smoking program supports this. The recent ABS report documenting improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smoking and quitting has been frequently stated by Australian Government Department of Health policy makers as critical in the \$184m decision to extend the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program for 4 years.¹³ This data was featured in the Minister's media release announcing the funding.¹⁴ This program has also called for a large tender for more precise and nuanced regional data collection, which would suggest that these policy makers would be very keen to use the more detailed smoking prevalence data that would become available with a question in the census.

Smoking is a risk factor for almost every chronic disease¹⁵, and therefore provides a reliable indicator of likely long-term future health care needs. Smoking is also a clear marker of social disadvantage, and may provide a better measure of persistent disadvantage than income or area based measures of socio-economic status.¹⁶ As a result, smoking status will also provide a good indicator of social service needs in particular areas into the future.

The Census data on smoking could also be used for important epidemiological

research on smoking, as has occurred in New Zealand. The New Zealand Census-Mortality Study has linked census and mortality data, enabling the census smoking data to be used by researchers to determine mortality among non-smokers living with smokers; the changing smoking-mortality association over time across social groups; and the contribution of smoking to mortality inequalities. 17 18 19 20 In Australia, the 2011 Census has been linked with death registrations, with similar plans for future Censuses, thereby enabling similar research to that conducted in New Zealand if a smoking question is added to the Australian Census.²¹

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Census data on smoking prevalence would enable more accurate measures of smoking prevalence for population sub-groups and small geographic areas where smoking prevalence is high. These include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations; Australians from various cultural and language backgrounds; those who are severely economically disadvantaged; and sub-groups of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) population. All these sub-groups can be identified by other characteristics collected in the Census.

The best available smoking prevalence data for Australia currently come from two population health surveys: the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS, conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)⁴ and the National Health Survey (by the ABS)³. These surveys provide similar descriptions of the downward trend in national smoking prevalence - however the survey estimates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smoking prevalence highlight the limitations of population health surveys in understanding smoking prevalence in sub-groups, where smoking is now increasingly concentrated.

The 2016 NDSHS estimate of daily smoking prevalence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over was 28% compared to 39% in the 2014-15 National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Social Survey conducted by the ABS. The large NDSHS included a much smaller and less

representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (only 568 participants aged 12 and over). While the ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander surveys address this limitation for estimates of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smoking prevalence, these limitations remain for smaller geographic and age sub-groups of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Unlike the Census, neither of the population surveys captures smoking prevalence among Australians who are homeless or living in non-private dwellings (eg. hotels, hostels, hospitals and prisons). Accurate information about smoking in these sub-groups excluded from population surveys is important to guide policy to support tobacco control initiatives where smoking is very prevalent.

Researchers in New Zealand have found that while microsimulation models can provide smoking prevalence estimates for small areas and subgroups, these are not yet sufficiently accurate.²²

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The ABS (and AIHW) has decades of experience in asking questions about smoking in population health surveys. Smoking questions can be easily understood by respondents, and do not require a high degree of literacy or language proficiency.

However, any question is open to error and bias, especially if completed by another householder. We are confident that a suitable smoking question, or series of questions, could be selected after the usual ABS development and piloting processes which would continue to provide valid and reliable estimates over time, and be simple and quick for respondents to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Smoking questions are likely to be considered acceptable to all respondents. There are decades of experience in asking questions about smoking in Australian population health surveys. Very few respondents choose to not respond to these smoking questions or respond that they don't know the answer. Similarly, very few respondents have not responded to the two smoking questions in the New Zealand Census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The ABS (and AIHW) has decades of experience in asking questions about smoking efficiently in population health surveys. A single smoking question, or a series of questions, could be answered with check boxes and without the need for a large number of response categories or text responses. The responses could be simply collated and reported as for the population health surveys.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Even though national smoking prevalence has fallen to 12%, monitoring smoking prevalence is likely to remain a major public health priority in the future. Australia will remain committed to monitoring trends in smoking as part of its obligations as a signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

As we move into the tobacco control 'Endgame', accurate monitoring of progress in small population groups will become even more important, but only practical with the Census. This Census data would inform important policy and program decisions in the long term.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Additional information to be gleaned from analyses of a smoking question in future Australian Censuses is not possible with existing population health surveys (or using microsimulation modelling).

These population surveys would continue to complement the Census by providing more frequent monitoring of national trends in smoking prevalence and more nuanced understanding of smoking and quitting behaviours and

attitudes.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

We have attached a copy of the recent editorial 'Should a smoking question be added to the Australian 2021 census?' from the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.

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Attachments

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 292451377

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

In addition to collecting place of usual residence and place of work, it would be useful to collect 'place of location' at a certain time on census day. For example, where were you at 10AM on Census day? This would provide Govt with an invaluable centralised information source to inform transport planning. While the work location is useful for the 11m of so people employed, this question would help capture the other half of the population who are at home, or who travelled to other locations.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles



Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This would provide Govt with an invaluable centralised information source to inform transport planning across Australia. While the work location is useful for the 11m of so people employed, this question would help capture the other half of the population who are at home, or who travelled to other locations.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It would be very useful to combine this with place of residence and place of work.

It would be very valuable for smaller regions without currently established transport infrastructure or with limited data.

It would provide a centralised data point for use in considering national infrastructure projects such as the Inland Rail project.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is a simple question - where were you at say 10am?

It can be collected easily. It's quick and easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It will be no more difficult to code this data than any other data collected on a geographical basis.

It is a simple question only requiring an address or suburb from the respondent.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

A time series of this would be very useful and would enable examination of travel distances, home based activities, and so forth.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This data cannot be readily obtained.

Administrative transport data is incomplete as it does not sufficiently cover road useage or areas where public transport is more limited.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 911707128

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Oberon Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The inclusion of a question within the Census that identifies the number of residences owned.

Oberon's LGA does not get appropriately represented by itinerate landowners that own (and reside) in more than one dwelling however are not presiding in their second residence on Census night.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Date of birth or age
- ☐ Children ever born
- ☐ Other/don't know

If other please specify

Multiple places of residence.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Currently in NSW substantial funding and operational initiatives relate to population. Oberon sits approximately 2 hours from Sydney and has an itinerate population. That being landowners who own or reside in more than one dwelling. The issue is that these residents only get calculated against the time and place they reside on Census night and are therefore lost in population statistics.

Currently approximately 25% of rates notices form Oberon are delivered to postcodes outside the local region.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The data requested is critical for smaller population areas when statistics outline population drop.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

As previously indicated the topic can be collected by a simple question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is not considered that this question is offensive.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic will not require extensive processing.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It is considered that this topic will be ongoing and more important as the pressures on Sydney continue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No data exists at this time.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 368794659

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

I have been part of a discussion about a submission from the NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research (NNIDR), but this is an additional private submission which may overlap substantially with the one from NNIDR.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Please consider including a response option 'memory problems' for item 23 in the previous census about why the person need assistance or supervision.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

With increasing longevity, more people are likely to develop severe memory problems, cognitive impairments and dementia. But it is very difficult to obtain data at a population level that can be used for policy development and program monitoring around providing support services to enable people with these problems to remain living in the community (rather than permanent residential aged care). National health surveys, and even surveys of disability, tend to miss elderly people with these problems. Consequently estimates of the numbers of people living with these limitations vary wildly, and are a source of concern to ABS staff in the health area.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Problems with memory, cognition and dementia are not limited to any geographical area. They are predominantly limited to the elderly, say people aged over 75 - but this is a growing proportion of the population. This response option could be added to those for item 23 in the 2016 census.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I believe the response 'memory problems' in the context of a person needing assistance or supervision would be easily understood.
This is only an addition of one response option added to an existing item.
While there will be some subjectivity in respondents knowing how to answer, it is in the context of the person needing assistance or supervision.
It would be quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I believe this response option would be inoffensive.
Among people who care for others living with cognitive impairment and dementia, this recognition of a major issue in their lives is likely to be appreciated - someone cares enough to ask, and to do so in a sensitive way.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

In my opinion this one addition to the response items is unlikely to cause any problems of coding (it isn't text), processing, or need any additional instructions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data on memory problems, cognitive impairment and dementia will become increasingly important for decades to come. Even if incidence rates

(e.g. numbers of new cases in a given period per 10,000 population) were to decline due to improvements in prevention and treatment, population ageing will ensure that the numbers of people living with these conditions will grow - this is indeed one of the challenges for Australia in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data of clinically recognised cases of dementia are recorded in many sources: hospital data, death certificates, Medicare and aged care assessments. These data can be integrated via record linkage - indeed this has been done by my own research group and by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. However coverage in any one source is not great and using capture-recapture methods we have estimated the undercount is about 20%. This level of error is too large for the purposes of policy and program monitoring, where detailed diagnosis (e.g. Alzheimer's disease vs some other form of dementia) is much less important than the need for assistance and supervision.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please

comment below.

Further comments

Hopefully my submission is self explanatory. However if any further information is required I'll happily provide it.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 495370149

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

The University of Western Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The University of Western Australia's staff and students use the Census for a wide range of purposes including teaching, research and planning.

The University of Western Australia suggests refinements in the data collected in the Census, in particular: race; sexuality; and mobility.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Race, sexuality; mobility

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Review of 2021 Census Topics
UWA Response

Thank you for the opportunity to have input to the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. As you would expect students and staff at the University of Western Australia use the five yearly census for a wide range of purposes including teaching, research and planning.

The University of Western Australia has a number of research institutes and centres such as the Centre for Regional Development, the Planning and Transport Research Centre and the WA Centre for Rural Health Institute of Population which, on a daily basis, use the census data in their work. The longevity and general consistency of topics and data collection methodology of the Australian census has enabled systematic measurement of important indicators that underscore quality of life, and provide accurate insight to how and where people live and work.

Unlike many other first world countries Australia is fortunate that we continue to have a comprehensive quinquennial census which provides systematic data across a broad range of demographic, labour force, socio-economic and housing issues. Quinquennial census is important to accurately account for change and therefore more presciently plan and invest in social infrastructure and services. This has been highly valued in Western Australia, which has experienced such strong population growth (39%) over the last three census periods. A quinquennial, rather than a decennial census, has had a significant impact on the quality of data, and the spatial scales of information, facilitating targeted interpretation and accurate responses to change. A recent example of the value of a quinquennial census was the recent resources boom that had a dramatic impact throughout Western Australia but especially Perth and the Pilbara region. The 2006 census showed significant changes had occurred over the previous five years and by 2011, the policy interventions and infrastructure investments made in response to the data elicited from ABS were clearly evident.

This university therefore strongly advocates for the continuance of quinquennial census and that it remains a comprehensive record of socio-economic, labour force, housing etc. data, particularly at the smaller area scales.

In addition, researchers are keen to encourage several refinements in the census. These include:

1. Race.

Currently the only race category in the census is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Given the current policy agenda regarding multi culturalism and immigration, inclusion of an expanded race/ethnicity question, including mixed race, would provide the opportunity to more accurately reflect the Australian population.

2. Sexuality.

An expanded categorisation of self-identified sexuality would more accurately reflect Australian cultural norms.

3. Mobility.

Currently there is no accurate way to assess mobility, particularly labour mobility which is increasingly a feature of Australian work life (Productivity Commission, 2014). Using place of usual residence and place of enumeration is clumsy and there are too many opportunities for individual interpretation and consequently, inaccuracies. There is no single system in place that captures and monitors the increasingly complex relationships between place of work and place of residence. Accurate data regarding mobility including:

- o Length of time away from home or base;
- o The purpose/reason for mobility;
- o Destination;
- o Mode of mobility; and
- o Regularity of mobility.

Accurate data is important for State governments and local government authorities that depend upon Commonwealth grants and payments for a range of service delivery commitments including health, education, disability services and affordable housing. Grants and payments are made based on Commonwealth estimates of growth factors, including population. In places where there is a high rate of workforce mobility there are invariably complaints of demand exceeding supply of services or inadequate infrastructure investment. A particular issue is transit worker accommodation. This is not limited to resource dominated local economies, but has application to corporate commuters. Accurate data regarding regional demand for transport infrastructure associated with mobility would also have considerable utility.

Productivity Commission. (2014). Geographic Labour Mobility. Canberra: Australian Government Productivity Commission. Retrieved from http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136193/labour-mobility.pdf





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 903087409

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Health groups

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Cleanairtas

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We have very limited data on the number of installed wood heating appliances. This applies to every state and territory in Australia.

The EPA or health studies sometime estimate the number of wood heaters; however, data is so very out of date it is meaningless.

NOTE: Smoke from wood heating appliances is classed as a Group 1 Carcinogen (the highest category along with asbestos and mustard gas) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer arm of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and yet we do not have reliable numbers. It appears some local councils only collect data on wood heaters installed in new-builds and submitting forms is not actively pursued. Heating appliance installation notifications for existing houses are not required in most jurisdictions.*

Some of these heaters can be very old and do not comply with AS/NZ

Standards.

There has been a significant increase in the number of wood heating appliances sold in recent years according to the Wood Heating Association. This occurs with a downturn in the economy; wood heating can be perceived as being cheaper as power prices rise.

We need to know how many wood heating appliances are installed so that proper policy development can occur.

Health, the EPA and the community need to know numbers so meaningful discussions can take place rather than just guessing numbers.

*The first port of call for an insurance company, if there is a fire, is to the local council to see if the heating appliance is registered. If not, owners will most likely have to fight for a payout.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The topic is of current national importance.

Data is needed to support policy development, planning of program monitoring, guidelines, regulations and new legislation if deemed necessary. This cannot be done if numbers are not known.

Data is needed and used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

Data is needed for small and large population groups , for small and large geographical areas; state-wide and across state borders.

Smoke from point sources can be small or large and can travel varying distances. It might be smoke from a neighbour's wood heater, it could be smoke from wood heaters in a whole town, or it could be smoke from Tasmania traveling to the mainland and vice versa.

Wood smoke is mainly made up of PM2.5 particulates. PM2.5 particulates can travel up to 1000Km and can stay airborne for over a week.

Cleanairtas is known across Tasmania, Australia, and different parts of the world.

The value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census, e.g.,

Low socioeconomic groups, and

Other group data listed on page 3 of this submission form.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Wood smoke is very current topic in the media therefore the need for collecting data is likely to be easily understood by respondents.

The topic can be collected in a few simple questions, e.g.

How do you heat your home or business? You can answer more than one.

1) Wood, 2) oil, 3) gas, 4) electricity, 5) pellet, 6) other, 7) n/a?

If you answered wood: Do you have: 1) a wood heater or, 2) an open fireplace?

How old is your wood heater in years? <2, 5, 10, 15, 20, or greater.

The topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents

The topic can be collected in simple questions

Respondents should easily know the answer to the questions

The questions are easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents. The topic should not be considered intrusive. Most premises in Australia have some form of heating. Respondents should be willing and able to answer accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic can be collected efficiently.
The topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information
The topic or question will not require extensive processing
The topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
The topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
The collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Data will change overtime depending on many factors:

We are seeing great changes with how people run their budget, e.g., Sola power, on-grid pricing, and turning to wood.

People are becoming more environmentally conscious.

New homes are sometimes made to conform to energy star rating.

The topic is likely to remain relevant into the future because of these changes.

There is a need for time series data on the topic for current, accurate, and meaningful trends to show.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

Funding is not available at local level or Australia-wide for an ABS heating survey. This has been asked previously of the ABS.

Data cannot be produced by integration of existing data sources. There are no other such data sources being collected by Commonwealth, State, local government, or private sources.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

There is no current data available on the number, location, or type of heating appliances, in particular wood heating appliances, across Australia and there needs to be.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 120107675

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

University of Melbourne

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- NSW Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, Sydney (permission granted).

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Kinship care is defined as family-based care within the child's extended family

or with close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal in nature (United Nations, 2010).

I am a researcher and advocate for policy and program development in the growing area of kinship care. There is now much evidence in the literature, as well as in the experience of social services staff working with vulnerable families, of significant levels of poverty and unmet need for financial and non-financial support among kinship care families. International evidence suggests that kinship carers as a cohort are older and poorer than foster carers.

I am frequently asked by policymakers and politicians how many children in Australia are living in kinship care, and how many kinship carers there are. I have been working with an ABS data analyst to obtain the best possible estimations of these numbers. Results have necessarily been very rough estimates, because the census does not include a suitable question about household member(s) who have primary 24/7 responsibility for children who are not that person's biological, step or adopted children. We are also unable to determine the relationship between the person with caring responsibility and the child being cared for. For children under the age of 15 not living with a mother, father, foster carer or grandparent, another adult is reclassified as their 'statistical parent'. This practice means that it is not possible to determine whether the relationship is that of aunt/uncle, older sister/brother, cousin, etc. I have been advised by the data analyst with whom I am working that changing the analysis algorithm to allow for these relationships to be reported would be possible within existing data processing fields available.

Another issue is that Census information about children is collected specifically for the age range 0-15. In current times, information about children is needed that embraces the full 17 years of legal minority, that is, age range 0-17 years. In our census analysis work we have been working around this by adding together data for children 0-14 and data about legal minors age 15-17 extracted from the 'adult' category 15-24 years.

We would like to see:

- 1) A small set of questions added to the Census 2021 that ask for information about which adults are responsible for the care of children whose parents are not co-resident, or who are co-resident but are not primary carers. (See draft question suggestions attached.)
- 2) A change to the process of analysis to remove the 'statistical parent' reclassification and allow details of family relationships to be reported and available for research and social planning purposes. (Please see Assessment Criteria 5.)
- 3) It would be wonderful to have the 'child' age category updated from 0-14 to 0-17 years, however we realise this may be impracticable within available resources.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

There is growing awareness that Commonwealth government social policy

does not take sufficient account of the existence and prevalence of kinship families, that is, family groups where children are being cared for by members of their extended family or by people in their community networks ('family friends'), whether informally or formally (statutory placements). The National and State/Territory Children's Commissioners are becoming increasingly concerned that such children are particularly vulnerable, and that they and their families have significant unmet needs for social support. There is also growing awareness among Members in both Houses of Parliament that changes to social policy are needed. These policy leaders are asking for accurate information about the dimensions of the issue. This information cannot yet be determined from the Census or any other administrative database (Kiraly, 2018).

Accurate data about the number of children in kinship care in Australia is also required for research purposes. While there have been research projects focusing on grandparent care in Australia, there is very limited Australian research about kinship care in the wider sense. There is a prevailing myth that kinship care is almost exclusively grandparent care, but no accurate data to determine what percentage of kinship carers are in fact grandparents. Even in the area of grandparent care, estimates of numbers are necessarily vague, as it is not possible to determine who are the primary carers of children in a multigenerational household (see for example, Brennan et al. (2013, Chapter 4).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data about children in kinship care is needed to inform social planning for the Australian nation as a whole, and for individual States and Territories. It is also needed for specific populations such as:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.
- Children and families in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- Children in different age ranges: infants; young children; adolescents.
- Comparisons of the number of children in kinship care in higher and lower socioeconomic areas.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- 1) We have drafted a small set of linked questions as a starting point for ABS census question designers to consider. We consider that these questions are reasonably simple and would be easily understood, and that accurate answers can be readily provided by respondents.
- 2) The second change requested is a technical change to the process of data analysis; this would not affect respondents. Please see response to Assessment criteria 5.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Census respondents are currently asked detailed questions about who lives in their household and relationships between the individuals. These questions go little further in terms of intrusiveness into family life. The questions are likely to be easy to answer accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Regarding our request for new questions:

The information we seek can be gained through a short set of simple questions that will not require a great deal of explanation. We think these questions will be clear to respondents without lengthy instructions or explanation. As far as we can determine, the questions would not involve undue complexity in data coding and analysis.

Regarding our request for change to the reclassification of adults in a household as 'statistical parents':

We have been advised by the data analyst with whom we are working that changing the data algorithm to allow for these relationships to be reported would be possible within existing data processing fields available.

NOTE

Given the presence in some households of various adults, the determination of a proxy measure for the number of kinship carers and associated specifications for data analysis has been quite challenging. We are also interested in knowing the specific relationships between kinship carers and children. Our data analyst has advised that it may be possible to identify actual relationships between adults and children in households from existing census data through a relatively minor modification to the current process of analysis. We understand that such a modification was made before the 2006 census to allow the grandparent care relationship to be identified. If another modification were possible along the lines of that relating to grandparents, we might be able to determine for the first time the actual numbers of kinship carers and children in kinship care in Australia.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Kinship care is an issue of considerable proportions in Australia as in other Western countries, and there is no indication that this will be different in the foreseeable future. Good social planning obviously depends on accurate data about prevalence of children and families in need, and about geographical areas of particular need. For example, Centrelink currently run a Grandparent Advisor service with eight Advisors for the whole country. This service is swamped by demand, yet is not officially even available to kinship carers other than grandparents. Accurate data would assist in reviewing the growing demand on this program with a view to its further development. It would also help in consideration regarding a wider range of Centrelink benefits and services to kinship carers in the future. Examples could be widening access to the Grandparent Child Care Benefit for all kinship carers, and giving kinship carers access to respite care services currently available to other designated Carers.

NOTE

The annual AIHW Child Protection Reports document the number of children in statutory kinship care (placements made by State/Territory child protection services) and the rapid rate of growth of these numbers (AIHW, 2010, 2018). It is generally believed that the total number of kinship care households (i.e. both informal and statutory care arrangements) is also growing, but there is no accurate data to determine the veracity of this belief. Time series data would thus be very useful both for research purposes and for social planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I have conducted extensive research of administrative data sets that may be relevant to obtaining information about the number of children in kinship care, their carers, and their circumstances (e.g. Aboriginality, ethnicity, income, housing, etc). My research has included communications with the experts and analysts who work on these data sets. The only data set that can potentially provide accurate data about the prevalence and characteristics of kinship care households in Australia is the Census. Please see Chapter 2 of attached 2018 research report Fairy godparents and fake kin for details of the search of administrative data sets.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Redacted text

Attachments

 [BHLF-9KFG-XKAU-A.docx](#)

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 556622180

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Speech Pathology Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Speech Pathology Australia requests a minor change to the existing professional occupation grouping levels. We would ask that speech pathologists be allocated their own separate Professional Occupation Unit Group level in line with other allied health professions such as Occupational Therapists (2524) Physiotherapists (2525) and Podiatrists (2526).

Currently the ANZSCO Unit Group coding of 2527 is for 'Audiologists & Speech Pathologists/Therapists' combining both the Speech Pathology (2527/12) and Audiology (2527/11) professions. Not only are Audiology and Speech Pathology quite independent and different occupations, but combining both occupations into the one unit grouping, does not allow for a sufficiently sensitive outline of the job labour market as this obviously varies across the two professions. Data needs to be captured for the profession of speech pathology on its own and across its entirety and should therefore have its own Unit Group number.

Having accurate workforce data enables governments and health providers to

identify potential skill shortages and plan its future workforce and in the case of speech pathology services, ensure comprehensive prevention, promotion and therapeutic services are available to all individuals with communication and swallowing impairments.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☐ Occupation
- ☒ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

In order for Census data to remain relevant and valuable and, as the ABS states, support key decisions and provide an understanding of change over time, Speech Pathology Australia requests a minor change to the existing professional occupation grouping levels. We would ask that speech pathologists be allocated their own separate Professional Occupation Unit Group level in line with other allied health professions such as Occupational Therapists (2524) Physiotherapists (2525) and Podiatrists (2526). Currently the ANZSCO Unit Group coding of 2527 is for 'Audiologists & Speech Pathologists/Therapists' combining both the Speech Pathology (2527/12) and Audiology (2527/11) professions:

Current version of ANZSCO Version 1.2 June 2013
Major Group (2) Professionals
Sub-Major (25) Health Professionals

Minor (252) Health Therapy Professionals
Unit Group (2527) Audiologists & Speech Pathologists / Therapists
Occupation (252711) Audiologists
(252712) Speech Pathologists (Aus)
Speech Language Therapists (NZ)

Not only are Audiology and Speech Pathology quite independent and different occupations, but combining both occupations into the one unit grouping, does not allow for a sufficiently sensitive outline of the job labour market as this obviously varies across the two professions. Data needs to be captured for the profession of speech pathology on its own and across its entirety and should therefore have its own Unit Group number. Please note that both Audiology Australia and the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association support this recommendation for the coding to be split into two discrete occupational codes, applicable separately to audiology and speech pathology at the Unit Group level.

Having accurate workforce data enables governments and health providers to identify potential skill shortages and plan its future workforce and in the case of speech pathology services, ensure comprehensive prevention, promotion and therapeutic services are available to all individuals with communication and swallowing impairments. An ageing population with predicted increases in those with dementia and multiple co-morbidities; increasing incidence of chronic disease; and increasing incidence of paediatric disability (for example autism spectrum disorders), along with the full roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), will all contribute to an increased demand for speech pathology services.

Gaining such data for the whole population is of particular importance nationally as highlighted by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee's Inquiry into the Prevalence of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia back in 2014.

One of the Inquiry's areas of focus was to understand how effectively current demand for speech pathology services was being met. The inquiry reported that there is 'considerable evidence that the supply of speech pathology services has fallen well below demand, leading to considerable waiting times. These delays for public and community-based services are evident in all states and territories. There is also evidence that services are inadequate in socio-economically disadvantaged areas while in many remote areas, the services

are simply not there'. The Inquiry recommended that 'the federal Department of Health investigate the evidence of geographical and demographic clustering of speech pathology services in Australia.'

The federal government response to this recommendation, published in November 2017, was to suggest using existing data sources. We would therefore argue that more detailed data i.e. the separation of speech pathologists and audiologists collected via the National Census would help contribute to creating this body of evidence regarding the geographical distribution of speech pathology services as well as workforce data, for no extra cost or effort.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Please refer to response to Question 1

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We consider our request to separate speech pathologists from audiologists and for each profession to be allocated their own Unit Group number a very simple change to the existing Census form, and therefore easy for the household to complete as 'speech pathology' will appear as a separate occupation unit group in the existing health therapy professionals list.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Please refer to response to Question 3

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Please refer to response to Question 3

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The demand for speech pathology services is only likely to increase due to the ageing population of Australia and the impact of reforms such as the NDIS. In order to assist with workforce planning and to ensure future supply meets demand, accurate data gathered by the National Census is essential and invaluable. While Speech Pathology Australia has member data (current membership stands at around 8500) not all speech pathologists are members of the Association, so alternative sources of data help to build a more comprehensive picture of the workforce which is useful data to help inform governments and providers alike with planning and service delivery strategies.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Please refer to response to Question 6

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKWJ-N.pdf](#)

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 703812490

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

The University of Western Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The University of Western Australia's staff and students use the Census for a wide range of purposes including teaching, research and planning.
The University of Western Australia suggests refinements in the data collected in the Census, in particular: race; sexuality; and mobility.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☒ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Sexual orientation

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Review of 2021 Census Topics

UWA Response

Thank you for the opportunity to have input to the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. As you would expect students and staff

at the University of Western Australia use the five yearly census for a wide range of purposes including teaching, research and planning.

The University of Western Australia has a number of research institutes and

centres such as the Centre for Regional Development, the Planning and Transport

Research Centre and the WA Centre for Rural Health Institute of Population which, on a daily basis, use the census data in their work. The longevity and general

consistency of topics and data collection methodology of the Australian census has enabled systematic measurement of important indicators that underscore quality of life, and provide accurate insight to how and where people live and work.

Unlike many other first world countries Australia is fortunate that we continue to have a comprehensive quinquennial census which provides systematic data across a broad range of demographic, labour force, socio-economic and housing issues. Quinquennial census is important to accurately account for change and

therefore more presciently plan and invest in social infrastructure and services. This has been highly valued in Western Australia, which has experienced such strong population growth (39%) over the last three census periods. A quinquennial, rather than a decennial census, has had a significant impact on the quality of

data, and the spatial scales of information, facilitating targeted interpretation and accurate responses to change. A recent example of the value of a quinquennial

census was the recent resources boom that had a dramatic impact throughout Western Australia but especially Perth and the Pilbara region. The 2006 census

showed significant changes had occurred over the previous five years and by 2011, the policy interventions and infrastructure investments made in response to

the data elicited from ABS were clearly evident.

This university therefore strongly advocates for the continuance of quinquennial census and that it remains a comprehensive record of socio-economic, labour force, housing etc. data, particularly at the smaller area scales.

In addition, researchers are keen to encourage several refinements in the census. These include:

1. Race.

Currently the only race category in the census is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Given the current policy agenda regarding multi culturalism and immigration, inclusion of an expanded race/ethnicity question, including mixed race, would provide the opportunity to more accurately reflect the Australian population.

2. Sexuality.

An expanded categorisation of self-identified sexuality would more accurately reflect Australian cultural norms.

3. Mobility.

Currently there is no accurate way to assess mobility, particularly labour mobility which is increasingly a feature of Australian work life (Productivity Commission, 2014). Using place of usual residence and place of enumeration is clumsy and there are too many opportunities for individual interpretation and consequently, inaccuracies. There is no single system in place that captures and monitors the increasingly complex relationships between place of work and place of residence.

Accurate data regarding mobility including:

- o Length of time away from home or base;
- o The purpose/reason for mobility;
- o Destination;
- o Mode of mobility; and
- o Regularity of mobility.

Accurate data is important for State governments and local government authorities that depend upon Commonwealth grants and payments for a range of service

delivery commitments including health, education, disability services and affordable housing. Grants and payments are made based on Commonwealth estimates

of growth factors, including population. In places where there is a high rate of workforce mobility there are invariably complaints of demand exceeding supply of

services or inadequate infrastructure investment. A particular issue is transit worker accommodation. This is not limited to resource dominated local economies,

but has application to corporate commuters. Accurate data regarding regional demand for transport infrastructure associated with mobility would also have considerable utility.

Productivity Commission. (2014). Geographic Labour Mobility. Canberra:

Australian Government Productivity Commission. Retrieved from

http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136193/labour-mobility.pdf



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 776733274

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ State/territory government department
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- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

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Topic name

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The University of Western Australia suggests refinements in the data collected in the Census, in particular: race; sexuality; and mobility.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

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Accurate data regarding mobility including:

- o Length of time away from home or base;
- o The purpose/reason for mobility;
- o Destination;
- o Mode of mobility; and
- o Regularity of mobility.

Accurate data is important for State governments and local government authorities that depend upon Commonwealth grants and payments for a range of service

delivery commitments including health, education, disability services and affordable housing. Grants and payments are made based on Commonwealth estimates

of growth factors, including population. In places where there is a high rate of workforce mobility there are invariably complaints of demand exceeding supply of

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Productivity Commission. (2014). Geographic Labour Mobility. Canberra:

Australian Government Productivity Commission. Retrieved from

http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136193/labour-mobility.pdf





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1021558033

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Land use data capture

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Land use data

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development. To ensure we are using land to its highest and best potential not simply to support speculative gains which is has a negative effect on our community generally.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed nationwide.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Respondents will know the answer to this question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Should be no more invasive than any other question on the census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic s simple and efficient to collect

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic will always be of the highest relevance.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No other official or government data collection on this topic exists.

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Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 883351054

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Private business but our clients are mainly local government around Australia, so this feedback comes mainly from our clients.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

id consulting Pty Ltd

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

City of Manningham

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Extra categories in the Method of Travel to work question and an additional related topic on travel time

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Mode of travel to work

☐

Name and address of workplace attended

☐

Number of motor vehicles

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Currently Method of Travel to work is collected for the morning of Census day. Our client, the City of Manningham, has suggested that an additional category be added to this classification, to include "Ride Sharing Service" (eg. Uber). This would sit alongside the existing category "Taxi", and reflect the changing nature of these services in the community in the past few years. If Method of Travel to education is included in the Census it could be added to that too.

Additionally, Method of Travel could be enhanced by asking an additional question about travel time. If this could related to "Approximate usual travel time" that would probably be more useful than travel time on a particular day. Currently distance of travel can be calculated using origin and destination information from the Census. But travel time is more important in terms of impact on people's lives, and this can be highly variable depending on location (urban/rural) and mode of travel. Including this topic could help inform national debates which are quite prominent on work/life balance, location of jobs relative to population, and assist in advocacy around better transport options at all levels of government.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on travel time are of critical importance at the local level - so a Census is likely to be better than a survey at producing this. Differences in small geographic areas will be the crux of the debate around how long people spend commuting. Small population group info could also be useful, particularly relating to a breakdown by industry or occupation, which would be best assessed by a Census of the whole population. Other demographic characteristics, such as age, sex and income would also be good to correlate with travel time to better understand the choices people make in life.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Adding a category to Method of Travel to Work for "ride sharing service" should be relatively easily collected. Most people are familiar with these services now and should require no additional effort to answer.

For travel time, this will be easily understood in most cases. However the usefulness of the data would probably come from it being asked as a "Usual travel time" rather than a specific occasion (ie. Census day). This could present

issues as some people may have travel times which are quite variable, may work in different locations on different days, or not know exactly how long the journey takes them. These issues could be addressed in question wording, and perhaps by including ranges in the question responses rather than a write-in answer. It's unlikely to be perfect but the bulk of the employed population should be able to answer within a reasonable range to provide useful information.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Method of Travel to Work is already collected and is not currently considered particularly intrusive or controversial. Travel Time is likely to be considered less intrusive than many other questions such as income, or even workplace address etc. Given the prominence of debates around work/life balance, the reason for including the question is likely to be obvious to the respondent so it would not seem intrusive or personal. Particularly if it's collected in ranges.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

For adding categories to Method of Travel - there may be an issue with

increasing the complexity of the output. At the moment every combination of methods is represented up to 3 times in the output categories. So even adding one base level categories will add some 30-50 categories to the result. Consideration should be given to making the output for Method of Travel to Work a multi-response category, like Ancestry - so information about each method can be collected separately, but also cross-classified to provide combination information.

The inclusion of travel time would be adding to the length of the Census as it would need to be an additional question. Unless it could be somehow worked in to the question on work destination. There is also the possibility that it will require a significant amount of instruction in terms of asking respondents to look at an "average" day, concentrate on one place of work etc. - it's not necessary a question which can be answered with minimal thought.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As with many new topics - time series will be of great importance. At a local level transport planners in Local Government and State Government will be able to look at whether their policies are having a direct impact on reducing the journey times of residents, or whether population and jobs growth in different areas is impacting on this and increasing travel times. Cross-tabulation with other Census variables will enable the examination of time series information for small population groups, such as a single occupation category. It seems likely that the topic will remain relevant in the future unless our way of working fundamentally changes - eg. everyone telecommutes - of course this question could monitor that as well.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Alternative data sources for Ride Sharing are a definite possibility. The specific ride sharing companies may have information on the usage of their services, which, if it's not considered commercial in confidence, would provide the number of people using these methods. Of course that would not be integrated with other Census topics or categories of method of travel, which is enhanced by including it on the Census.

For travel time, there may be partial administrative by-product datasets available from state road authorities or public transport authorities. For private travel modes such as car and bicycle, Google clearly have significant data on travel times at particular times of day, and can calculate this through their own service. If this were available outside of Google it would provide a great deal of this useful information for informing the national debate. However it's unlikely to be available and would still lack all the cross-tabulated demographic information which comes with the Census, and will provide the most useful datasets around travel time.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Thanks for the opportunity to submit this on behalf of .id's client base, but particularly the City of Manningham.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 113021789

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Swimmong. Let's find out how many people actually know how to swim. Maybe of there is a large number who don't the government can make legislation to get everyone swimming. Its. Life saving skill.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health and wellbeing.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

With a large number of drownings each year. Drowning is preventable.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Australia is surrounded by water and it's a big part of everyone's life.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Simple. Do you know how to swim

Yes.

No

A little.

Of no what is the reason

Cost

Uninterested

Don't care about safety.

Should lessons be mandatory from an early age. Eg 4mo

Yes

No.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes to find out what areas need more work done in preventing drownings.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Will not require explanations.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Can follow in future census and see if there is a shift towards people learning and drowning deaths decreases.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Royal life saving society.

AUSTSWIM

Swim Australia.

Kids alive do the fi e.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 790142254

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Whittlesea,

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The City of Whittlesea recognises that individuals within the community may identify as a gender other than the sex they were assigned with at birth or a gender that is not exclusively male or female. We also recognise that sex and gender, while used interchangeably, are two distinct categories and concepts. Sex refers to the chromosomal and anatomical characteristics associated with biological sex, while gender is part of an individual's personal and social identity. We therefore recommend the following key points for consideration in reviewing this topic for the 2021 Census:

1. That the ABS seek input from Australia's leading gender identity academics, advocates and key stakeholders on the most appropriate way to collect data on gender / sex.
2. That the 2021 Census asks of survey respondents either their sex or their gender and not both as the two are distinct in meaning and interpretation.
3. For a question on gender, that the ABS enable an individual to nominate the gender with which they identify, including response option/s in addition to male and female.
4. That the 2021 Census online survey form include all response options, rather

than a separate opt-in process for individuals identifying as neither male nor female.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

We live in a global and local environment where the increasing norm is for the right to identify without prejudice and discrimination. Thus it seems timely and appropriate that the nation's main statistical and demographic bureau, the Australian Bureau of Statistics also collect information on sex / gender which allows for non-binary categories of self-identification as part of the standard survey form. An increased understanding of people who identify with genders other than male or female is critical to inform all policy, planning and programming of national importance. It is important the completion of the Census form, and therefore engagement with this crucial data collection, is as inclusive as possible and enables maximum participation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The special procedure introduced in the 2016 Census which gave survey respondents the opportunity to complete an alternative online form relating to their sex / gender identification reveals the increasing significance of capturing this type of demographic information in its own right, but also to enable cross-tabulation with other components of the Census. However, the opt-in process in the 2016 Census may have inhibited participation in the Census for this section of the population and may mean that their data is not accurately reflected in the results. It is therefore timely that the ABS provides an 'other' category (or categories) in the sex/ gender question.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic will can be easily understood if we ask either sex or gender and not both. The structure of the question should include the male, female and other option/s, as informed by experts and key stakeholders.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The inclusion of non-binary or transgender identification has already been considered and included by the ABS in previous Censuses. It has been acknowledged that the topic of gender and sex is complex and terminology can be confusing, so it is important to consult with key stakeholders to ensure that the question wording and response options are clear, appropriate and accurate.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

We recommend the ABS consult with experts to determine the most appropriate response options for a question on sex / gender. A respondent selecting from pre-determined categories will be more efficient and cost-effective to code than self-nominating their sex / gender with an open-ended field. Concise wording of the question will be important to clarify whether the Census is asking about sex or gender identification.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

By including non-binary or transgender categories as part of the standard data collection procedure, rather than an opt-in procedure requiring the individual to request a separate form, the accuracy and reliability of the data will improve. It will be important to consult experts to ensure the response options provided will remain contemporary to enable continued monitoring of trends over time.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

To our knowledge, no other data collection mechanism can capture national data on sex / gender with the level of rigour of the ABS Census.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 377860662

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Question 45 of the 2016 Census asks, 'How did the person get to work on Census day?' This is particularly useful for local and state governments to understand travel patterns by different modes. It is also informative as it enables an analysis of destination to work trips as Question 41 asks for the person's workplace address.

Generally, journey to work trips comprise 30% of total trips therefore an opportunity to gain insights into other travel behaviour is considered warranted. It is recommended that 'how did you travel to education' be included as a separate question as it will provide more data on travel demand in the morning peak period and therefore an understanding of the pressures on the road and public transport networks, travel patterns and behaviours and wider impacts on community health and wellbeing. It can follow on from Question 24 - Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution? and Question 25 – What type of educational institution is the person attending? quite easily and also provides a straightforward segue to ask a travel to education question.

The data from the 2016 Census to reveals that:

- 10.68 million persons employed nationwide;
- Approximately 3.6 million are school aged students (pre-school to secondary); and
- 1.4 million students are attending universities.

Therefore, an understanding of the travel patterns and modes of 5 million school and university students will be beneficial to local and state government infrastructure and service providers. It is considered that the inclusion of this additional question meets the assessment criteria as it is of national importance with an ongoing need to collect this data and a straight forward question to

respond to.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The additional question proposed, 'How did you travel to education' is of national importance given that there are approximately 5 million school and university students (ABS 2016), which in addition to the 10.68 million employed Australians, has a significant impact on transport infrastructure, particularly in the morning peak period. This additional question will provide much needed data on the demands placed on the road and public transport networks. The results from this proposed question, when combined with other components or topics from the Census could also reveal important information relating to impacts of commute times, travel patterns and behaviours on individuals, families and community which have significant implications for policy, planning, programming and advocacy beyond travel to education or work data.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Given that there are approximately 5 million school and university students

throughout the country, this data is needed for the entire population. Combined with the existing question on 'How did the person go to work on Census Day', vital information will be collected on how people travel to work and education including their destination of travel. This data can be used to inform:

- land use planning frameworks;
- identify economic development trends and opportunities;
- understand traffic congestion and commute times to assist in addressing improvements in transport infrastructure and services; and
- identify health and wellbeing issues (for example, impacts of long commute times on lack of time for physical activity, socialising, rest and relaxation time, and or family time time).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The additional question proposed 'How did you travel to education' is similar to Question 45 - How did the person get to work? It is therefore considered that households will be able to complete this question without difficulty providing that the response options list is identical to question 45. The proposed question also links easily and logically into Question 24 - Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution? and Question 25 – What type of educational institution is the person attending?

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposed additional question 'How did you travel to education' is not offensive, intrusive or controversial and is considered acceptable to Census respondents as a similar question, Question 45 – How did the person travel to work? has been asked in previous census forms.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Data on the proposed question 'How did you travel to education' can be collected efficiently and will require minor processing and analysis by the ABS. A question asking respondents How did the person travel to education? will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation and it can be captured and categorised consistent with question 45 – How did the person travel to work? If the proposed question includes response options consistent with Question 45 then the additional effort on the part of the ABS will requires simple question design with an already existing coding framework at the back end for data collation which is already in place.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need to continue collecting time series data given the growing population of the country and increase in number of university students, particularly given that education is a key export industry for Australia. Time series data is also necessary for the efficient and effective planning of transport related policy and programs and for the eventual evaluation of those policies and programs.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are currently no other national data sources available to collect information on 'How did you travel to education'.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 572116746

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Queensland Health

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

1) Prevention Division supports recent calls (see attached journal editorial) for the inclusion of a new question in the census to ask; 'Do you currently smoke regularly, that is at least once a day'?

2) This would provide accurate data on smoking prevalence among smaller geographical or sub-population groups, which is a current information gap.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This would provide accurate data on smoking prevalence among smaller geographical or sub-population groups, which is a current information gap

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This would provide accurate data on smoking prevalence among smaller geographical or sub-population groups, which is a current information gap

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKDU-D.pdf](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 458384454

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

myself

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Observations on questions 7, 18 and 33 on the 2016 census form

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☒ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

indigenous and other ancestry issues; income measures

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

more precise data on indigenous identity is required for policy development as to indigenous disadvantage; this includes vexed issues as to ancestry and the way that personal income data is collected

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

all three

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I'm not sure that data on indigenous identity, ancestries of all residents or personal income are well-collected

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

As I am unable to fit my observations into your consultation format I attach a word document

Attachments

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 466622497

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

myself

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Observations on questions 7, 18 and 33 on the 2016 census form

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☒ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

indigenous and other ancestry issues; income measures

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

more precise data on indigenous identity is required for policy development as to indigenous disadvantage; this includes vexed issues as to ancestry and the way that personal income data is collected

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

all three

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

I'm not sure that data on indigenous identity, ancestries of all residents or personal income are well-collected

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

As I am unable to fit my observations into your consultation format I attach a word document

Attachments

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 862857520

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission does not propose a new Census topic, it seeks to amend response categories for the existing Question 25: What type of educational institution is the person attending. Specifically:

Amending existing response category from 'Preschool' to 'Preschool/Kindergarten Program'; and

Amending existing response category from 'Infants/Primary School' to 'Primary School'; and

Adding 'Home education' as a new response category.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Amending existing response category from 'Preschool' to 'Preschool/Kindergarten Program' and

Amending existing response category from 'Infants/Primary School' to 'Primary School'

Responses to the existing Question 25 provide useful data sets to jurisdictions regarding attendance at preschool and kindergarten programs and primary school. Amendment of these categories would support respondent's improved understanding of response categories, providing a more robust and reliable data set.

Inclusion of the term Infants may potentially confuse respondents and skew results. Removal of the term Infants would provide clarity regarding the Primary Schooling response categories and prove consistency with the format of the Secondary Schooling options.

Adding 'Home education' as a new response category

Education standards and funding in Australia is an ongoing topical conversation. The option to register children for home education is increasingly being pursued by Australian parents.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Amendment of response categories will improve responses collected for this existing question.

Amending existing response category from 'Preschool' to 'Preschool/Kindergarten Program' and

Amending existing response category from 'Infants/Primary School' to 'Primary

School'

Kindergarten is used interchangeably across a range of jurisdictions.

Inclusion of the term Infants may potentially confuse respondents and skew results. Removal of the term Infants would provide clarity regarding the Primary Schooling response categories and prove consistency with the format of the Secondary Schooling options.

Adding 'Home education' as a new response category

All states and territories in Australia currently have provision for registration for home education/schooling to satisfy compulsory school enrolment and attendance obligations on parents.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is an existing question on the Census and amendment of response categories would support respondent's improved understanding of the correct category required to be completed; providing a more robust and reliable data set.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Amendment of existing response categories is not controversial and will assist respondents to correctly classify responses. It will help to remove confusion potentially caused by inconsistent use of terms across jurisdictions for the classification of the year before full-time schooling and by use of the term Infants in connection with Primary Schooling. Addition of a home schooling category will provide a response category for respondents who previously may have had difficulty classifying their response.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed amendments to response categories will allow more clarity to inform responses, and it is not anticipated that they would increase impost on respondents or require lengthy instruction or explanation.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on types of educational institutions attended and it is important to ensure clarity of terms to assist respondents to classify their responses.

Informal consultation with other states and territories conducted by **Redacted text** indicates that other states and territories have seen similar and rapid increases in the number of children registered for home education increasing the relevance of data on this group of students.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Amending existing response category from 'Preschool' to 'Preschool/Kindergarten Program' and

Amending existing response category from 'Infants/Primary School' to 'Primary School'

See Criteria 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Adding 'Home education' as a new response category

There is currently no suitable option on the Census collection form to capture children registered for home education in Australia. Data currently collected data in regards to school age children may therefore be inaccurate due to there being no home education response category and respondents may select

varying alternatives when seeking to classify responses.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 610529573

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This proposal seeks addition of topic in the Income and Work section of the Census to capture data on workers in the gig economy (all workers and platform workers). Data is sought on who is working in the gig economy and how often.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Yes. A range of policy areas including industrial relations, health and safety and workers compensation need to better understand and address the gig economy.

The regulation of gig work is becoming more important given the size of the growing gig economy. Basic regulation such as pay and conditions and health and safety is currently impossible as there is no virtually no data on gig workers, particularly platform gig workers.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Yes. In order to norm any collection that may occur in other surveys.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes. Given appropriate question design, noting that the Australian Bureau of Statistics has advised that question design, for proposals that are accepted, will occur at a later date.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes. It is expected that most people would understand the need for this data and be willing and able to accurately respond.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Yes. This data need can be met with the addition of a few questions in the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes, there is an ongoing need for the proposed data to maintain policy responses in workplace health and safety, industrial relations and workers compensation as well as other areas.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

An addition to the Labour force survey (at least quarterly) would provide useful data. This would need to be normed to the Census.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 447556771

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Proposal seeks to retain the existing 'Question 59: Does any member of this household access the internet from this dwelling?' and expand this to understand the following for households that have children at school:
broadband uptake (understanding the digital divide and sources of disadvantage).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

internet access at dwelling

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Yes, education is a strategic agenda for the nation. The March 2018 Gonski report Through Growth to Achievement - Report of the Review to Achieve

Educational Excellence outlines the transition to tailored individual learning. Key enablers for this agenda are digital based environments, and households that are unable to access broadband services can put their children at disadvantage. Specific understanding is important to States and Territories with a larger Rural and Remote footprint. The topic formed into an Australian Parliament Current Issues Brief (1 2001-02) and has recently re-emerged with disadvantage issues raised for NBN access.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

No. This topic maybe of some interest for other departments, but we are focused on households with school based students.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Yes, but some of the underlying data can be validated against NBN and Internet Service Provider information.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes, this is an ongoing agenda to move to the digital learning space, and any sources of digital divide will be an issue that needs to be addressed. The recent change to NAPLAN Online generated community discomfort and Industrial Action based on anxiety associated with change. All sources of digital divide will surface as the digital changes occur, and recent media reporting of NBN coverage is expected keep the issue topical.

The data is also required for the planning of the digital learning agenda, and to provide for support and change services.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 500523540

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Housing Disability and Community Services

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

1. Adding a supplementary question to 'Where does the person usually live'.
 - o If 'None'.
 - o Options for describing why (the main reason) the person had no usual address on Census night such as:
 - Travelling
 - Working away from home
 - Unable to return home due to safety reasons
 - Unable to return home due to financial reasons
 - Unable to return home due to family breakdown
 - Does not want to return home
 - Other
 - o This would separate grey nomads/travellers from homelessness estimates.
2. Better counting estimates of homelessness by clearly identifying long term supported accommodation and removing this from homelessness counts.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The new National Affordable Housing Agreement is overseen by the Treasury Laws Amendment (National Housing and Homelessness Agreement) Bill

2018).

The National Affordable Housing Agreement includes a key national performance indicator to decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness.

The Australian Bureau of Statistic's Census is the only data collection that consistently collects and report on estimates of homelessness across jurisdictions. In Tasmania, there is no other data collection of estimates of homelessness statewide.

This homelessness data collected in the Census is extremely valuable in the Tasmanian context to provide information on demand for services and unmet need. This informs program and policy directions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Homelessness data is required for the whole Tasmanian population to determine estimates of homelessness statewide.

Regional breakdown is required to determine unmet need, and inform programs and services for regional areas. This has included LGA and SA2 level for Tasmania and would be useful to continue.

The ABS uses six homeless operational groups to present the estimates of homelessness. Estimates are also presented for three other areas of 'other marginal housing'. It is supported that this is continued.

The characteristics of the homeless population, such as sex, age, whether of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, education attendance, core activity need for assistance, country of birth and proficiency in spoken English is also included in the collection and would be useful to continue.

This level of detail provides information that identified level of need and unmet demand for services on a regional basis and also by the characteristics of people. The data can inform program and service design.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Current estimates of homelessness are based on a multi-faceted approach using responses to tenure, dwelling type and usual address questions. Lists of crisis shelters and supported accommodation dwelling addresses are then provided by service providers, along with details of the intended use of the dwellings (such as crisis or transitional accommodation).

The methodology for estimates of homelessness would not commonly be well understood by the household.

The ABS Homelessness Statistics Reference Group submission for the 2016 Census highlighted that 'no usual address' may not be an adequate count of homelessness because the definition is the address at which the person has lived intends of live for a total of six months or more. This is reliant on one household member to enter and know this data. This can be an issue for young people who are couch surfing and may not be able to go home, people escaping family violence and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who may be underrepresented in the homelessness count of 'persons staying temporarily with other households'.

This submission proposes the addition of a supplementary question:

1. Adding a supplementary question to 'Where does the person usually live'.

o If 'None'.

o Options for describing why (the main reason) the person had no usual address on Census night such as:

Travelling

Working away from home

Unable to return home due to safety reasons
Unable to return home due to financial reasons
Unable to return home due to family breakdown
Does not want to return home
Other

o This would separate grey nomads/travellers from homelessness estimates. This question would be readily understood by the household that completes the survey if it was supported by clear instructions of what to complete for people in particular living circumstances.

This submission also proposes:

2. Better counting estimates of homelessness by clearly identifying long term supported accommodation and removing this from homelessness counts.

This would not require understanding by the household because it is not included in the Census questions. It is part of the enumeration process that is undertaken in 'the background' to determine homelessness estimates.

Currently, the process for determining the number of people who are homeless by 'living in supported accommodation for the homeless' involves service providers and Government providing lists of dwellings to the ABS including crisis shelters and supported accommodation dwelling addresses, along with details of the intended use of the dwellings (such as crisis or transitional accommodation). For Tasmania, this approach has become problematic for the estimates of homelessness.

In Tasmania we have changed our policy and program approach for providing supported accommodation facilities for short term or temporary accommodation (often having shared facilities) to providing long term supported accommodation that is intended for independent living. We have also increased the number of supported accommodation dwellings that we have in the state and most of these are now for long term accommodation. This has implications for the estimates of homelessness as previously the residents may have been considered homeless (living in crisis/transitional accommodation) and now they are securely housed (long term accommodation).

The Homelessness Statistical Reference Group have also noted that such housing arrangements are more diverse and flexible than previously defined, and therefore clearer definitions could now be formed.

It is recommended that estimates of homelessness clearly define the counting rules for supported accommodation, and that supported accommodation for

long term housing is not included in the estimates of homelessness.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposed additional supplementary question is not considered to be intrusive or controversial. The household member responding to the Census should be able to clearly identify if there is a temporary resident living in their household and the reason that the person does not have a usual address.

If this Census is completed by a service provider that manages a dwelling, they should be also be able to identify the reason that a person is living in the dwelling temporarily and has no usual address.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed supplementary question may require further discussions with jurisdictions and the ABS Homelessness Statistics Reference Group to clearly identify the potential responses and instructions for people completing the survey. These should be concise and kept to a minimum.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a continuing need to collect accurate data on homelessness and to explore better ways to collect homelessness data into the future.

There is a need for the data to be consistent and comparable.

The suggested additional question would add to the collection of quality and accurate data.

The suggested approach to not including long term supported accommodation in the collection may slightly impact on data and time series, but should not have been included in the data collection and can only add to better data over time.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no data collections within Tasmania that provide the level of detail on homelessness estimates on a statewide basis. There are occasional surveys of

homelessness but they are not undertaken consistently by collecting the same data and providing a time series.

There are no other national data collections that provide estimates of homelessness.

There is a national (and state) data collection for Specialist Homelessness Services that does provide some information on level of unmet need for services, however the data is only provided for the people who make contact with services, not the whole population.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This submission is provided from a Tasmanian perspective, but is consistent the issues raised by the ABS Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (national).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 763238366

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Shelter Tasmania is the state's peak body for housing and homelessness services

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Shelter Tasmania

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Shelter Tas has consulted with our members who include community housing providers and specialist homelessness services.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Review of question 57 to capture more accurate numbers of people living in public housing, social housing managed by not-for-profit providers (community housing) and private rental.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☐

Structure and types of dwellings

☐

Homelessness

☐

Housing costs

☐

Number of bedrooms

☐

Internet access

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This topic is of current national importance. There are pressures throughout the housing system, for example, overburdened public housing supply, increased community sector management of public housing properties, strains in the affordable rental market, and increased proportion of renters rather than home purchasers. For these reasons, it is important to accurately capture and monitor trends in the social housing space.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Rental tenure type is already recognised as an important Census topic, the current need is to better describe tenure types within the social and public housing space, and better distinguish social housing rental from private rental.

Data is needed across all communities, especially for capital cities where housing pressures are intense. There are also 'hot spots' where demand for affordable rental housing is increasing, for example in areas of increased short stay accommodation or other economic development. The national Census is the best place to track these trends comprehensively across diverse areas and communities.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The data can be collected by household self reporting, but the current question design is potentially confusing for tenants.

We recommend separating 'community housing' from church group and housing cooperative. This way, continuity can be captured by combining the categories, but the changes in the balance between public and community housing will be clearer. For example, in Tasmania, 1/3 of public housing properties are now managed by community housing providers.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial, it is very similar to existing questions.

We think respondents will be able to answer accurately, and to assist this, there could be an information program run by social housing providers.

The specific groups in Tasmania would be people who were previously in public housing and are now in community housing (approximately 4000 households) and they could be reached by a targeted information program to clarify their census category.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The variation suggested will not add difficulties for coding, and any costs would be minor.

If the approach is to separate 'community housing' from 'church group or housing cooperative', then the change would seem straightforward.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on the topic. For this reason, the change can easily be absorbed into previous category, but makes more fine-grained analysis possible.

The topic is likely to remain relevant in the future. Housing is essential for all Australians and for multiple policy areas. Affordability is likely to be a major challenge for the foreseeable future, and understanding patterns of change within the social (public and community) rental housing space will continue to be a topic of importance.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No other source provides thorough and fine-grained data about rental tenure

type.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 267845750

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

N/A

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ), within the Department of Local

Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, recommends the inclusion of an additional census topic “ethnicity”. The inclusion of an ethnicity topic would more accurately capture people’s cultural identity and the characteristics of the population, and enable improved government, policy, program and service delivery.

Australia’s population is becoming increasingly diverse. While existing Cultural Diversity Census topics such as ‘country of birth’, ‘ancestry’, and ‘main language other than English spoken at home’ help understand Australia’s cultural diversity and may have a bearing on a person’s cultural identity, these topics do not provide information on the cultural or ethnic group that a person currently identifies with. For the purposes of government agencies and their service providers, current identification is important as it shapes lifestyle choices, behaviours, belief systems, relationships and social systems.

The collection of data on ethnicity, in addition to data on ancestry and all other existing variables relating to Cultural Diversity, will enhance the richness and quality of data on Australia’s population, highlight groups that are currently ‘not visible’ and will improve policy and program design to better respond to the needs of community.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐

- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☒ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☒ Proficiency in spoken English
- ☒ Ancestry
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

This submission proposes an additional cultural diversity topic "ethnicity".

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Increasing cultural diversity in Australia:

The results of the 2016 national Census showed that Australia is a fast changing, ever-expanding, culturally diverse nation. In communities across the country there was an increasing variety in terms of country of birth, languages spoken, whether people are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, and religious affiliation (or secular beliefs) (see reference at footnote 1). For example, the 2016 Census shows that:

- two thirds (67 per cent) of the Australian population were born in Australia
- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians had either been born overseas (first generation Australian) or had one or both parents born overseas (second generation Australian)
- over 300 separately identified languages were spoken in Australian homes and more than one-fifth of Australians spoke a language other than English at home.

MAQ considers that Australia's growing cultural diversity presents new challenges and opportunities, including for policy makers and program designers, to better understand and respond to the needs of people, particularly those from new and emerging communities or those who are not easily 'identifiable' through current data collection measures.

MAQ notes the historic development of the inclusion of the 'ancestry' question in 1986 and its subsequent removal in the following two Censuses. MAQ welcomed the reintroduction of the 'ancestry' question in 2001 and its subsequent five-yearly collection to date, which, in association with other existing Census topics such as 'Country of Birth', 'Year of Arrival in Australia', 'Country of Birth of parents' and 'Languages spoken' helps understand cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia's increasingly multicultural population.

Gap in identification of Australians' cultural identity:

MAQ is aware through many years of working closely with diverse cultural and ethnic communities, that identifying cultural diversity is becoming increasingly complex given the increasingly rich diversity of our country's population.

While existing Cultural Diversity Census topics can be used together to identify particular ethnic or cultural groups, they do not necessarily provide information on the cultural or ethnic group that a person currently identifies with. For the purposes of government agencies and their service providers, current identification is important as it shapes lifestyle choices, behaviours, belief systems, relationships and social systems.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity (p.11) highlight the complexity of identifying cultural identity, and limitations with using measures such as ancestry alone: “ancestry in the Australian context is complex as there are many Australians with origins and heritage that do not, in practice, relate to their current ethnic identity. Ancestry data alone, therefore, is not considered a good measure of service needs or the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage or disadvantage. When Ancestry data is used alone, it should only be done to represent a broad measure of cultural diversity” (see reference at footnote 2).

Although ancestry and ethnic identity are related, they are also separate and distinct entities that when elicited, may provide different responses from people. Ancestry has a focus on fore-bearers and ancestral heritage; ethnicity, on the other hand, has a focus on current identification. For example:

- children born to second generation migrants, who were born in Australia, who have spent their entire lives in this country (e.g. second generation Chinese migrants - although ancestrally the children may identify as ‘Chinese’, they may not speak a Chinese language and may more readily identify themselves as ‘Australian’)
- cultural groups that can only be identified by ethnicity or sometimes languages they speak (e.g. Karen born in Thailand).

Proposed new topic ‘ethnicity’:

To improve identification of cultural and ethnic groups, including those who may not otherwise be captured in existing Census questions, MAQ recommends the inclusion of a new question on ‘ethnicity’ in addition to the existing census topics. The collection of data on ethnicity, in addition to data on ancestry and all other existing variables relating to Cultural Diversity, will greatly enhance the richness and quality of data on Australia’s multicultural population, highlight groups that are currently ‘not visible’ and will improve policy and program design to better respond to the needs of community.

The Queensland Government recognises the importance and positive impacts of improving collection of statistical information commensurate with the increasing cultural and linguistic diversity of the population. Section 19C of the Multicultural Recognition Act 2016 (the Act) requires that the multicultural policy must provide for a consistent approach across government for collecting statistical information about the diversity of people who use services provided by government entities . The Queensland Multicultural Policy and Action Plan thereby sets out requirements for Queensland Government agencies to collect data on cultural and linguistic diversity as follows:

- Minimum mandatory indicators: 'Country of Birth', 'Preferred language' and 'Language required'.
- Desirable indicators: 'Ethnicity (or cultural identity)'.

Identified Queensland Government agencies are required to develop agency implementation plans outlining steps needed for the government agency to collect and report on the minimum mandatory indicators. A number of Queensland Government agencies are currently collecting data on ethnicity, and a number of others are making provisions to collect ethnicity data in future.

The demand and interest in measuring the ethnic and cultural composition of the Australian population is growing as both community and Governments are seeking to better understand, and respond to, diverse cohorts of people. ABS, through mechanisms such as the Census, is well positioned to lead the way on improvements to how cultural and ethnic diversity is measured into the future.

Footnotes:

1. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/Media%20Release3>

2.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/CA25687100069892CA256889000C9E88/\\$File/12890_1999.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/CA25687100069892CA256889000C9E88/$File/12890_1999.pdf)

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As outlined in response to Assessment criteria 1, identifying cultural diversity across Australia is becoming increasingly complex given the increasingly rich diversity of the population. Whilst existing Census topics provide some understanding of Australia's cultural diversity, they do not necessarily provide information on the cultural or ethnic group that a person currently identifies with, including 'Australian'. For the purposes of government agencies and their service providers, current identification is important as it shapes lifestyle choices, behaviours, belief systems, relationships and social systems.

MAQ's recommendation to collect ethnicity data from a Census of the whole population aims to improve understanding of people's cultural and ethnic identities, including those not captured in existing Census questions, and to enable more effective targeting of policy, programs and services.

Inclusion of a new question on 'ethnicity', in addition to data on ancestry and all other existing variables relating to Cultural Diversity, will greatly enhance the richness and quality of data on Australia's population, highlight groups that are currently 'not visible' and will improve policy and program design to better respond to the needs of community.

The ethnicity topic could be combined with a number of other characteristics collected in the Census, such as those relating to education, employment, housing, and location.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is suggested that the proposed question on 'ethnicity' could be structured in a similar manner to the existing question on 'ancestry'. For example, the question could be phrased "What is the person's ethnicity?" with a number of available options, as well as an 'other' field to allow respondents to complete as required.

It is anticipated there is likely going to be confusion over the terms 'ancestry' and 'ethnicity', particularly when both are asked adjacent to each other in the Census. It is suggested that some explanatory information be provided both to ancestry and ethnicity.

For the 'ancestry' question the following points could be provided:

- Ancestry is the person's, or their family's, origins and heritage
- Provide up to two ancestries only
- Examples of 'Other': Greek, Vietnamese etc.

For the proposed 'ethnicity' question, the following points could be provided:

- Ethnicity is the main culture or ethnic group that the person identifies with, including 'Australian'
- Provide up to two ethnicities only
- Examples of 'Other': Chinese-Australian, Vietnamese, etc.

If this proposed change is adopted, MAQ would suggest engagement with the community to provide educational material regarding the differences between ancestry and ethnicity and why it is important to gather data on both variables.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

MAQ considers that the addition of a question on 'ethnicity' is likely to be well received by the general community, particularly younger people who understand the complexities of identity, provided that ample education and awareness raising takes place to support the implementation of this change.

MAQ notes that there may be views that adding a question on 'ethnicity' on top of existing Cultural Diversity variables may be considered intrusive, particularly for some cohorts such as those who have come from traumatic backgrounds (e.g. refugees who have experienced persecution).

However more broadly speaking MAQ notes there may already be an

unwillingness for some within those vulnerable cohorts to participate in the Census due to a general mistrust of the Census process or mistrust of Government. Some respondents may be concerned that identifying one's cultural or ethnic diversity may cause them to be too easily identified (e.g., those who have escaped persecution). MAQ considers it important that the ABS continues to acknowledge and actively address issues impacting on possible under-enumeration among these cohorts.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is suggested that the proposed question on 'ethnicity' could be structured in a similar manner to the existing question on 'ancestry'. For example, the question could be phrased "Which ethnic group does the person belong to?" or "What is person's ethnicity?" with a number of available options, as well as an 'other' field to allow respondents to complete as required.

It is anticipated there is likely going to be confusion over the terms 'ancestry' and 'ethnicity', particularly when both are asked adjacent to each other in the Census. It is suggested that some explanatory information be provided both to ancestry and ethnicity.

For the 'ancestry' question the following points could be provided:

- Ancestry is the person's, or their family's, origins and heritage
- Provide up to two ancestries only
- Examples of 'Other': Greek, Vietnamese etc.

For the proposed 'ethnicity' question, the following points could be provided:

- Ethnicity is the main culture or ethnic group that the person identifies with, including 'Australian'
- Provide up to two ethnicities only
- Examples of 'Other': Chinese-Australian, Vietnamese, etc.

If this proposed change is adopted, MAQ would suggest engagement with the

community to provide educational material regarding the differences between ancestry and ethnicity and why it is important to gather data on both variables.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

MAQ recommends the ethnicity topic is included in the 2021 Census form and every 5 years thereafter.

The topic is likely to remain relevant into the future. As stated in Assessment Criteria 1, 2016 Census data showed that Australia is a fast changing, ever-expanding, culturally diverse nation. Inclusion of an ethnicity topic would enhance understanding of Australia's cultural and ethnic diversity as it becomes more complex, and help improve policy, planning and service delivery into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Whilst existing cultural diversity topics, including country of birth, ancestry, year of arrival, and languages spoken provide some information on cultural diversity in Australia, there are no sources of information on current cultural identification at the national level.

MAQ recommends that the addition of a Census ethnicity topic provides the best solution to understand cultural identification at a national level.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 913361743

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

N/A

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The 2016 Census included Australian South Sea Islanders specifically in the

instructions for Question 18 – Ancestry. This change was also widely communicated in the community. Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ), within the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, recommends further enhancement of data collection for this population, through the inclusion of an Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box as a permanent part of the existing question on ‘Ancestry’. It is proposed that a tick box option will facilitate better participation and identification of Australian South Sea islanders in the Census for reasons including ease of reporting compared with writing and increased visibility of the response option.

The Australian South Sea Islander community was officially recognised by the Commonwealth Government in 1994, and by the Queensland Government in 2000, and there are ongoing calls from the Australian South Sea Islander community for greater recognition and response from Government to address the needs and aspirations of this community.

MAQ therefore considers that implementing ways to improve enumeration of Australian South Sea Islanders in the Census is key to giving due recognition to this unique community, their distinct and important role in Australia’s history and future, and to better enable Government policy and planning responses to address disadvantage experienced by this community.

Australian South Sea Islanders are a distinct cultural group with a unique history and position in Australian society. They are the Australian-born descendants of people who were brought to Australia between 1863 and 1904 to work as indentured labourers in the primary industries. It is estimated that over 50,000 people, predominantly men, came from some 80 South Sea (Pacific) Islands, and the majority were kidnapped, ‘blackbirded’ or deceived into coming. Many of the South Sea Islanders were deported in the early 1900s following the introduction of the White Australia policy (see reference at footnote 1).

Until the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) started collecting Australian South Sea Islander data in the 2001 Census, the last major source of data was the Census of the Australian South Sea Islander population undertaken as part of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission’s research on this cohort of people in 1992; published in ‘A Call for Recognition’ report. Prior to that, the only other accurate count of South Sea Islanders was following the mass deportation in 1900s.

There has been longstanding anecdotal evidence of the under-enumeration of

Australian South Sea Islanders (discussed below). As a result there are significant gaps in data for this disadvantaged community, which has impacted on Government to respond appropriately from a policy and planning perspective.

In the 2016 Census, 9,388 people identified as having Australian South Sea Islander ancestry in Australia, a significant increase from 4,037 people in the 2011 Census. MAQ welcomes this significant increase and recognises this increase is likely due to extensive engagement undertaken by the ABS and community stakeholders ahead of the 2016 Census.

Footnote:

1. Flanagan, T., Wilkie, M., Iuliano, S. Australian South Sea Islanders: A century of race discrimination under Australian law.

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/erace-archives-australian-south-sea-islanders#1>

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐

- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☒ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☒ Proficiency in spoken English
- ☐ Ancestry
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

- 1. This topic is of current national importance.**

National Importance

Improving Australian South Sea Islanders' response in the Census is critical to improving recognition of this community and their unique historical experiences, cultural heritage and contribution to Australia, and to improving government policy, program and service delivery.

Australian South Sea Islanders have little in common with more recent groups of migrants (including from Pacific Island nations), having been settled in Australia since the 19th century. They are also not indigenous to this country, although many have dual or tri-cultural heritage through interrelationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Available information, including through community feedback, indicates Australian South Sea Islanders continue to experience similar levels of social and economic disadvantage to that of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Australian South Sea Islanders have long called for greater recognition from Government of their community's unique historical experiences, cultural heritage and contribution to the country. While the Commonwealth and Queensland Government have formally recognised Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct and unique ethnic group, there continues to be a systemic lack of recognition and Australian South Sea Islanders tend to 'fall through the cracks' when it comes to Government policy and program development. Many Government agencies do not collect data on Australian South Sea Islander ancestry or ethnicity, and there are very limited programs and services targeted at addressing areas of disadvantage faced by Australian South Sea Islanders. For this reason the Australian South Sea Islander community has continued to call for greater recognition from Government that is reflected in practice.

In November 2014, the Federal Parliament Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (the Committee) held a roundtable discussion to mark the 20th anniversary of the Commonwealth Government recognition of Australian South Sea Islanders. In its report of March 2015, *Revisiting Recognition: Report on the roundtable with Australian South Sea Islanders*, the Committee concluded that not enough is being done to address Australian South Sea Islanders' ongoing disadvantage (see reference at footnote 2).

The report's sole recommendation calls for action from the Australian Government, to work across agencies, to identify priority areas to address disadvantage, improve coordination with State governments, and address

problems in the provision and delivery of culturally aware and appropriate Government services to Australian South Sea Islanders.

On 22 March 2017 the federal Department of Social Service tabled its response to the report stating it agrees in principle with its sole recommendation and made a commitment to:

- 1) reinstate Australian South Sea Islanders as a specific target group in the Multicultural Access and Equity Policy;
- 2) utilise the existing whole-of-government consultative mechanism, the Senior Officials Settlement Outcomes Group (SOSOG), together with bilateral meetings, to discuss issues related to Australian South Sea Islanders; and
- 3) increase awareness across the Commonwealth of the needs and barriers of this group.

A major Australian South Sea Islander survey undertaken by Queensland Government in 2014 found that the need for recognition, by Government and the broader community, continues to be a key aspiration of the Australian South Sea Islander community. The 1992 HREOC A Call for Recognition report found this community was in a situation of high need, with particular difficulties observed in school retention, employment skills, home ownership and health (see reference at footnote 3).

MAQ considers that implementing ways to improve enumeration of Australian South Sea Islanders in the Census will enable all tiers of Government to gain a better understanding of the areas of disadvantage experienced by this community and to develop appropriate policy and program responses.

Footnotes

2. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (March 2015). Revisiting recognition:

Report on the roundtable with Australian South Sea Islanders.

https://www.aph.gov.au/~media/02%20Parliamentary%20Business/24%20Committees/243%20Reps%20Committees/SPLA/ASSI/Finalreport_23Mar15.pdf?la=en

3. Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (1992). The Call for Recognition: A Report on the Situation of Australian South Sea Islanders (p26).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Australian South Sea Islander population is spread nationally. While Australian South Sea Islanders may account for a small proportion of the Australian population, there are particular communities especially in Queensland and New South Wales that have significant proportions of Australian South Sea Islanders (see reference at footnote 4).

Available information, including through community feedback, indicates Australian South Sea Islanders continue to experience similar levels of social and economic disadvantage to that of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It appears that some of these experiences of disadvantage are exacerbated by the fact that Australian South Sea Islanders don't always identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, although many have interrelationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and have little in common with more recent groups of migrants, including those from the Pacific Islands. MAQ has received feedback that Australian South Sea Islanders do not consider themselves as part of Australia's multicultural community.

For these reasons Australian South Sea Islanders tend to 'fall through the cracks' when it comes to Government policy and program development. Notably, there are few programs and services targeted at addressing areas of disadvantage faced by Australian South Sea Islanders.

MAQ proposes that an Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box option will facilitate better participation and identification of Australian South Sea islanders in the Census for reasons including ease of reporting (compared with writing) and increased visibility and prominence of the response option.

Improved enumeration of Australian South Sea Islanders in the Census can lead the way to building the evidence base to support understanding of, and development of appropriate responses to, the issues experienced by this community. For example, better enumeration of Australian South Sea Islanders, combined with other characteristics such as housing, employment and education data, would enable Government and community to gain a better understanding of how this community is faring across these areas. It would be useful to have access to Data on Australian South Sea Islanders at a small area/granular level.

Footnote

Australian Bureau of Statistics: Census of Population and Housing, 2016.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

MAQ considers that the uniqueness of Australian South Sea Islanders warrants a stand-alone Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box as a permanent and more visible part of the existing 'Ancestry' question.

This will make it significantly easier and quicker for Australian South Sea Islanders to respond to this question, thereby likely to significantly improve enumeration of this cohort. It will also serve as an important explicit recognition by Government of Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct and unique cultural group.

MAQ also considers it will be important to continue to acknowledge and actively address other issues that may be impacting on the under-enumeration among this cohort. Some of these issues may be:

- mistrust of the Census process or mistrust of Government – some respondents may be concerned that identifying as Australian South Sea Islander may negatively impact on their access to Government-subsidised programs and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;
- where a respondent has multiple ancestries, the other ancestries may be given higher weight, taking precedence over their South Sea Islander heritage; and
- lack of understanding of what an Australian South Sea Islander is – some may identify their ancestry as being from one of the Pacific Islands instead of an Australian South Sea Islander.

The total number of Australian South Sea Islanders enumerated in the 2016 Census was 9,388, up from 4,037 in the 2011 Census. MAQ welcomes that the enumeration of Australian South Sea Islanders is moving in the right direction, and would strongly encourage the ABS to continue to address barriers to counting Australian South Sea Islander data so as to normalise the response from the Australian South Sea Islander community into the future.

The 1992 the Call for Recognition report cites some sources estimating there may be up to 15,000 to 20,000 descendants of the original indentured labourers in Australia at the time of the report. The Census collection, undertaken as part of the same study, counted 10,200 people identifying as Australian South Sea Islanders. At the time of the report the HREOC estimated that the South Sea Islander community consisted between 10,000 and 12,000 people (see reference at footnote 5) . This suggests that could be more people with Australian South Sea Islanders ancestry than has been reflected in the Census to date.

Footnote

5. Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (1992). The Call for Recognition: A Report on the Situation of Australian South Sea Islanders (p26).

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

MAQ notes that for the existing Census questions on Country of Birth, Religion, Ancestry and Language, the ABS provides as available options the top six to ten most frequent response by people from the previous Census.

However, as already discussed in Assessment criteria 3 (above), MAQ considers the uniqueness of Australian South Sea Islanders warrants a stand-alone Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box as a permanent part of the existing 'Ancestry' question.

It is highly unlikely that this would be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial. If this proposed change is adopted, MAQ would suggest some educational material for the community to raise awareness about the unique historical experiences, cultural heritage and contribution of the Australian South Sea Islander community to the Australian society, and the rationale for inclusion of the stand-alone identifier tick box.

As stated in Assessment criteria 2 MAQ suggests that an Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box option will facilitate better participation and identification of Australian South Sea islanders in the Census for reasons including ease of reporting (compared with writing) and increased visibility and prominence of the response option.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed inclusion of an Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box as permanent part of the existing question on 'Ancestry' will have minimal changes to the question. It is unlikely that this proposed change will have any time or cost impost for the collection and coding of information on the 'Ancestry' question.

The proposal identifier tick box will not require additional instruction or explanation and may lead to efficacy and efficiency in the move from free text.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It is proposed that Australian South Sea Islander identifier tick box is included in the 2021 Census form and every 5 years thereafter as the topic is likely to remain relevant into the future. This enhancement will build evidence to help Government and community better recognise and understand Australian South Sea Islanders into the future, and improve government policy, program and service delivery.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

To MAQ's knowledge there are no other data sources that collect and provide

information on Australian South Sea Islanders' demographic and other characteristics, such as employment, education, health and wellbeing.

Until the ABS started collecting Australian South Sea Islander data in the 2001 Census, the last major source of data was the Census of the Australian South Sea Islander population and the subsequent report by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 1992. Prior to that, the only other accurate count of South Sea Islanders was undertaken in 1906, when a large proportion of South Sea Islanders were deported from the country following the introduction of the White Australia Policy.

MAQ welcomes the ABS' collection of data on Australian South Sea Islanders since the 2001 Census, which has continued every five years. MAQ also welcomes the extensive work undertaken by the ABS in partnership with a range of stakeholders, to engage with the Australian South Sea Islander community to encourage response to the Census. The significant increase in the count of Australian South Sea Islanders between the 2011 and 2016 Census is likely the result of the extensive awareness raising and promotion undertaken by ABS and community stakeholders.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 313048367

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Greater Dandenong

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

It proposes that the number of questions on the Census be reduced, with the removal of questions which may generate information of limited accuracy or which has little value in research or policy development. This steps, it is proposed, may help to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of the Census, which may help to preserve the five-yearly Census as an essential institution for research, policy development and for informing the public.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Unpaid care of children
- ☐ Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- ☐ Unpaid work - domestic activities
- ☐ Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The City of Greater Dandenong makes extensive use of the findings of the Census for the development of its services and programs, for advocacy to the State and Federal Governments, and other purposes. The findings of the Census have proven an invaluable tool for Council planning, information sharing and research.

I am therefore pleased to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and admiration for the work of the Australian Bureau of Statistics in generating and distributing this information.

In response to the ABS review of the 2021 Census topics, I propose several adjustments to the content of the national Population and Household Census. Taking into consideration the cost of processing entailed in each Census question, and the prospect that an excessive number of questions may detract from the rate of completion of the Census and the accuracy of its findings, we are of the view that the benefit of the findings stemming from each question should be weighed against the cost of its inclusion.

Accordingly, our practical experience suggests that a number of questions may be dispensed with altogether, owing to their limited use in guiding decisions about policy and service delivery. In particular, we propose that the following questions are of insufficient benefit to policy, service planning, advocacy and research, to justify their inclusion in the 2021 Census:

- In which country was the person's father born?
- In which country was the person's mother born?
- What is the person's ancestry?

The questions presented below also appear to yield findings of limited application or benefit. In this context, the distinction should be discerned between the importance of the issue addressed by these inquiries, which is not contested here, and the utility of the data collected by those questions, which appears doubtful.

The value of these questions may be further compromised by a lack of precision in the answers they elicit, due to limited accuracy with which people are apt to recall such events, coupled with a tendency to substitute poorly-recalled facts with guesses or self-serving estimates.

Those questions are as follows:

- In the last week, did the person spend time doing unpaid domestic work for

their household?

- In the last 12 months, did the person spend any time doing voluntary work for an organisation or group?

As with the inquiries featured above, the following two questions, while also relating to social issues of undoubted importance, yield data that is of perhaps limited value to the formulation of public policy, the development of services and programs, or advocacy.

- In the last two weeks, did the person spend time providing unpaid care help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?
- In the last two weeks, did the person spend time looking after a child without pay?

An additional consideration relating to these questions is the relatively modest level of change in the Census findings during the five-year inter-censal period. In Victoria, the percentage of people who provided care for a person grew from 12.2% in 2011 to 12.7% by 2016 – a rise of 4%. In responses to the inquiry about care for a child, the proportion of respondents who replied in the affirmative rose from 29.4% to 29.8% during the same period, representing an increase of 1.4%.

If these questions were to be retained at all, such modest changes in a five-year period argue against their inclusion in every census, and instead favour their incorporation into every second Census, enabling them to be documented with adequate frequency to trace significant change in the pattern of responses over time.

Finally, it is suggested that the inquiry 'Does any member of the household access the internet from this building?' be removed.

Two circumstances lend weight to this proposition. First, household internet access has become so widespread as to have largely eliminated differences in the prevalence of access among different communities, thereby diminishing the value of this question. Moreover, with the burgeoning use of mobile devices for accessing the internet, responses to this question now have limited bearing upon the characteristics of the dwelling in which an individual resides.

The adjustments to the content of the Census proposed here would entail the removal of between six and eight questions, thereby substantially lightening the burden of the completing the Census upon respondents and defraying the cost of tabulating and disseminating its findings.

It is the view of Council that the accomplishment of these key objectives may contribute to the preservation of the five-yearly national Census, which is an indispensable tool for social policy and planning, at all levels of government, and for informed community engagement.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 749462811

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Non-government organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Anglicare Sydney

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Anglicare Sydney uses the religion question in the Census both for our own planning and on behalf of other Anglican organisations we work with in the Sydney area. We recommend that the religion question remain in the Census in 2021 and that it retain the wording and response order of the 2016 Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Anglicare Sydney is a large aged care and community services organisation which uses the national Census to better understand the wider community and for planning purposes. Census data is analysed and reported upon by our Social Research & Policy Unit (SPRU), as well as by other parts of the organisation.

SPRU also provides Census data reports to other Anglican agencies outside Anglicare and to parishes in the Diocese of Sydney, including religious affiliation data gathered through the Census. This data is essential in agencies and parishes better understanding local communities and their own Anglican

constituency within these communities. The Religion question has assisted Anglican schools in better understanding the populations in their catchment areas.

Religious affiliation is important complementary data to the ethnicity data collected through the Census, and helps to provide a more nuanced picture of ethnic groups than would otherwise be possible through questions about ethnicity (eg country of birth, language spoken at home). This suite of data assists in planning for the location of new ministries, including ethno-specific ministries.

Trend data from the Census, including that based on the Religious question, also informs understanding about the growth and decline of churches in local areas.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Anglican Diocese of Sydney, which covers most of Greater Sydney, the Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven, is divided up into around 250 parish areas. Anglicare's Social Policy & Research Unit receives requests from Anglican ministers for Census data, including religious affiliation data, for their parishes. This is to inform ministers about the population in their parish, distinctive characteristics, how the parish has changed over time and to enable comparison with the people who attend their church. In some cases parishes are very small – less than 10 Statistical Areas Level 1 – so Census data is required.

When used in conjunction with country of birth, language spoken at home and ancestry data, the religious affiliation data is useful in planning services to particular ethnic groups by Anglicare Sydney and the Anglican Church.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The Religion question is an optional question which has been in the Census since 1911. It is short and easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The Religion question is an optional question in the Census. Therefore, if people consider it intrusive, offensive or controversial, they can decline to answer.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The Religion question has been in the national Census since its inception. Anglicare Sydney would favour keeping the question and the response order unchanged from the 2016 Census, since coding and reporting of data is already in place.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The question of religious affiliation will continue to be of interest to many organisations, community groups and individuals in Australia into the future. Anglicare Sydney uses time series data for religious affiliation to inform planning, and collects this information on behalf of the Anglican Church and other organisations in the Sydney Diocese for their planning and evaluation as well.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Religious affiliation data has been collected in the national Census since 1911 so the Census is the best source of this data for the future.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 349031270

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Education and Training

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Australian Bureau of Statistics

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The 2016 Census includes the following question regarding highest

qualification completed:

Question 25. What type of educational institution is the person attending?

This question records the type of educational institution currently attended by the respondents, but some of the terms such as “preschool” are not clearly defined and can mean different things in different states or territories. In addition, the question only asks about broad type of institution and it is not clear how online or correspondence institutions are included.

The online census and data processing enhancements provides an opportunity to collect more specific information about the institution which can then be mapped back to institution type as well as provide a rich set of associated data not currently available.

The proposal is to change the question to ask respondents to provide the name and address of the educational institution they are currently attending. An example of this is Question 20 in the 2018 New Zealand Census pictured below.

On the online version of the Census, this could have a drop down list populated with educational institutions that can auto-fill the address to make the selection easier for respondents. There would also need to be an option for online or by correspondence option. This alternative question can be used to test respondents’ understanding of the question as well as determine proxies for journey to place of education.

As an alternative, cognitive testing should be undertaken across different states and territories of the question to ensure reporting is consistent and potentially including further guidance.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☐ Location

☐ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This data is used by the DET and other institutions for education research purposes. Collecting quality data for this is crucial for policy development and research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This topic has been collected in the 2016 Census and in previous Censuses and will continue to require data from the whole population. The value of the topic is enhanced by increasing the depth of information collected.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic and the intent of the question as it was in the 2016 Census is easily understood the specific responses currently listed could have different meanings for respondents. The alternative question we are proposing will be easily understood by respondents. There may be issues with respondents recalling the address of the educational institutions they are studying. However, a general location would still offer more information than is currently being collected. For online respondents, a drop-down or auto-fill feature could assist in answering the question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Information on education participation and attainment was collected in the 2016 Census and in previous Censuses; therefore it is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial. This change is simply collecting more detail on the on education institution.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The question should not present any major difficulties for coding the information and will not require extensive processing for the ABS. The topic will not add minimal cost and time to the Census as we are suggesting to replace the current question and replace it that may increase response time to those respondents currently studying. The question would not require a lengthy explanation.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is need to continue to collect this data in an accurate manner as the topic will remain relevant into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Some of the data collected by the population can be found in other datasets but this would not cover every citizen in the population. This question has been asked in previous Censuses and we do not propose that the need for this topic to be collected in this data set will change.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 930092633

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Health and Well-being focused not-for-profit

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

The Early Life Nutrition Coalition

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

To gather information that will allow the Early Life Nutrition Coalition to better drive awareness and action that supports empowerment and behavioural change for improved nutritional status during the First 1,000 Days – that being prior to conception through to toddlerhood. Key areas of focus include: maternal nutrition before, during and after pregnancy; paternal health and diet; promoting the importance of breastfeeding for as long as possible; introducing solids, including known allergens, at around six months; and positive nutritional role modelling by parents and caregivers, health care professionals, society and policy makers.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health Awareness and Health Education

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

A growing body of evidence shows that the First 1,000 Days provides a critical

window of opportunity where a healthy environment, particularly good nutrition, can positively influence lifelong health by reducing the risk of obesity, allergy, type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and improved mental wellbeing.

Globally, we are facing an obesity epidemic and life expectancy has declined relative to historical patterns. Both poor lifestyle choices and nutrition contribute significantly to this situation.

The Early Life Nutrition Coalition believes every child deserves the best possible start to life.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

During pregnancy, a variety of health care professionals provide valuable information that will impact the life-long health of the unborn child. However, access to these healthcare professionals is not uniform across the country.

Understanding what services are being accessed and in what regions will allow for the better placement and utilisation of health specialists, as well as better investment into their knowledge and understanding of the importance of The First 1,000 Days in shaping life-long health outcomes.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household

completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The questions suggested by the Early Life Nutrition Coalition are focused on an individual's experience and actions, as such the information is easily recalled and recorded.

The questions are also straight forward in nature.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is related to health and infant nutrition, with a focus on breastfeeding and access to pregnancy related health services.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic questions require yes / no answers, so they are easily coded, and are appropriate for collection via Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes, as this is a health related topic that focuses on understanding and subsequent action, it will be highly relevant to future Census', as it is relevant to the future health of all Australians.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While data from 2010 investigates breastfeeding in Australia, there is no national data relating to the long-term implications or access to services and information relating to nutritional intake during The First 1,000 Days.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The rapid increase in prevalence of chronic diseases, including metabolic and allergic disease, as well as neurodevelopmental disorders, is a significant national health problem, with a growing body of evidence now linking the nutritional environment in early life to an increased risk of disease in adulthood.

The risk of developing these diseases is influenced by a range of factors across an individual's lifespan. Environmental exposures during fetal development and infancy are now considered responsible for a significant part of lifetime disease risk, as they can trigger changes in the developing offspring.

Research has identified vulnerable time periods, including prior to conception and during fetal and early postnatal development, where exposure to environmental factors, including poor nutrition, can trigger adaptations in the growing fetus. While these effects may be adaptive in the short-term, they may also be associated with adverse outcomes in childhood and later life, including a greater risk of metabolic diseases, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease, as well as allergy.

Among other factors, maternal and paternal health and lifestyle behaviours are key determinants of pregnancy outcomes and the longer-term health of the offspring. Identifying vulnerable periods in fetal development provides an important opportunity for parents and caregivers, healthcare professionals, society and policy makers to intervene and optimise future health outcomes.

The Early Life Nutrition Coalition was established in 2017 as a sub-committee of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand. The Coalition is an affiliation of concerned professional, academic, advocacy, corporate and healthcare groups working collaboratively to communicate and promote the importance of early life nutrition as a long-term preventative health measure to health care professionals, new and expectant parents and adolescents.

The Coalition has taken the liberty of suggesting the following questions for consideration. Of course, the Coalition is eager to work closely with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to further refine the topic under review:

1. During and in the months immediately following your pregnancy/ies, which of the following health services did you access? (Select all that apply)

- Diabetes Educator
- Dietitian
- General practitioner
- Lactation consultant
- Midwife
- Naturopath
- Nutritionist
- Obstetrician
- Paediatrician

- Paediatric Dietitian
- Pharmacist
- Other
- None

2. Did you breastfeed any or all your children, and if so, thinking of your youngest child, for how long? (Please select one)

- Yes, less than four weeks
- Yes, less than three months
- Yes, more than three months but less than six months
- Yes, between six and twelve months
- Yes, more than twelve months
- No

3. For your pregnancy/ies did you modify or adjust your diet and nutritional intake? (Please select one)

- Yes, I took pregnancy and breast feeding supplements
- Yes, I took pregnancy and breast feeding supplements, as well as adopted a healthier diet
- No, I didn't take pregnancy supplements or alter my diet

4. Are you aware of the belief that nutrition during the First 1,000 Days (from conception through to toddlerhood) can help shape long-term health outcomes for your child? (Please select one)

- Yes, but not that it is referred to as the First 1,000 Days
- Yes, I am aware of the First 1,000 Days
- No, unaware of the notion of the First 1,000 Days



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 505068240

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Education and Training

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Australian Bureau of Statistics

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The 2016 Census includes the following question regarding highest

qualification completed:

Question 31. Did the person complete this qualification before 1998?

The question in its current form has minimal or no use by the Department of Education and Training (DET) and other researchers who want to undertake analysis of Australians by year of highest educational attainment.

We propose that the question be changed to ask: "What year did this person complete this qualification?" and that this question be tested for the ability of respondents to accurately recall the year.

The revised question would be significantly more useful to DET and a range of researchers across Australia and does not preclude the ABS to use the question for coding purposes. The new data will allow for broader range of longitudinal statistics, research and modelling than is currently possible from this Census question and will significantly increase the utility of other enduring, linked ABS data sets such as the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset and the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project. This proposal will also enhance any DET datasets linked to the Census and used for research purposes. The new data will allow DET to measure phenomena such as life-long learning and its impact on outcomes for Australians.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location

- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Understanding educational attainment and the lifelong benefits of education has always been of national importance and requires data to be collected at a population level. Changing this question will allow more informative and useful information to be collected about year of completion and will remain useful for ABS coding proposes. The data will be useful for research and statistics purposes as it allows for analysis of impact of lifelong learning, education benefits, as well as panel or cohort information to be constructed.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As this is a follow-up question to the previous questions on highest educational

attainment in the 2016 Census, the question would gather data from the whole population, which would provide more accurate and comprehensive information on the topic of educational attainment. This would enhance our knowledge and understanding of highest educational attainment for the population when combined with the other questions collected in the Census such as Field of Education or household income and employment outcomes.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents. The topic can be collected in a simple response. Whether respondents will be able to easily and quickly know the answer may need to be tested. However, even if respondents cannot answer exactly, the approximation will provide more insights than the current question allows.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Information on education participation and attainment was collected in the 2016 Census and in previous Censuses. As the current question is similar to the proposed question to replace it, it is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

It may need to be tested whether the question can be answered accurately particularly for respondents who completed their highest education attainment some time ago.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The response would be a four-digit year so this should not present any major difficulties for coding the information and will not require extensive processing for the ABS. The question would not require a lengthy explanation and would essentially follow on from previous questions. The collection of the data will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions as we are suggesting altering the existing question to gather more useful information.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The question in its current form is required for ABS coding purposes on an ongoing basis. By altering this question, the ongoing need will remain, i.e. for coding purposes, but it will make it more informative and useful for DET and other researchers.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Limited data on this topic can be extracted from DET data sources, which collect administration data, but only for Australians who studied in Australia and only in certain education sectors e.g. university. As skilled migration rates have increased significantly and proportionally in the last twenty years it is increasingly important to reassess educational attainment levels for all Australians. The Census is currently the only way to understand the extent of educational attainment for all Australians and to link this data with other important outcome information such as income, employment and demographics.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 415146339

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Education and Training

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The 2016 Census includes the following question:

50. In the last two weeks did the person spend time looking after a child, without pay?

A follow-up question could be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Census:

Follow-up question: If so, how many hours (on average) did the person spend looking after the child, without pay?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The data would provide important information to support policy development and for research purposes in relation to child care and paid work.

It could inform longer-term government policy regarding child care, eg whether there is a general reduction in time that parents are looking after a child without pay; and showing trends in time spent between men and women providing unpaid care for children.

The role of grandmothers taking care of children may be of particular policy and research interest. The following infographic from the ABS 2016 Census shows a spike in the proportion of older women providing unpaid care to children (other than their own), which would suggest grandmothers:

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As this is a follow-up question to the existing question 50 from the 2016 Census, the question would gather data from the whole population, which would provide more accurate and comprehensive information. Nonetheless, it may be that a sample survey - whether existing (see assessment criteria 7) or proposed for the future - may be adequate for a range of policy and research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents; can be collected in a simple question or questions.
Whether respondents will be able to easily and quickly know the answer may need to be tested.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

While the question may need to be tested with respondents, it is not obvious that the topic is likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial and respondents are likely to be willing to answer. The accuracy of responses will need to rely on the respondent calculating average hours spent looking after the child without pay, which may be difficult to do so, especially if it changes from week to week.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

All of the following are likely to apply to the proposed question:

- the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information
- the topic or question will not require extensive processing

the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on the topic and the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There may be a range of other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need. For example, the ABS Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS) provides information on families' care arrangements—including the use of grandparent care—at three yearly intervals. This may be a more useful vehicle than the Census for asking additional child care questions. The CEaCS has comprehensive data items, which may prove useful to identify the factors / covariates impacting the association between child care usage and employment.

There may also be a range of other existing surveys that may provide information on this topic, though they may lack the longer term trend data and full Census population approach that can be provided through the ABS Census.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 435901879

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Redacted text

The submission covers three suggestions:

1. Add a question to ask “does the person have any limitation or restriction in one of the listed (non-core) activities?”
2. Add a question to ask “is the person a participant of NDIS”?
3. Disseminate the data items separately for the existing questions 20 to 23.

Suggestion 1: People having restriction in one of non-core activities

The disability related questions since 2006 Census have provided a rich source

of information for comparing the characteristics of Australians needing assistance in core activity (ASSNP) to the rest of the community. We understand that the disability related questions are not designed to be used for estimates of disability prevalence. However, they not only provide great insights into subpopulations (such as Indigenous in remote and very remote areas), they do also facilitate the estimation of disability prevalence in small areas.

One of the limitations of the data collected via these questions is the coverage. Because ASSNP is conceptually equivalent to the profound and severe disability and practically captures only about a quarter of Australian people with disability, it severely constrains the use of the Census data to its full potential.

We recommend ABS add an additional question to the 2021 Census to capture those who have limitation or restriction in non-core activities. Other ABS disability modules have established a good base for listing these non-core activities. In order to minimise the survey load, we do not propose to have individual questions for each of these non-core activities. Instead, it should allow as a whole identification of a sub-population who have restriction in any one of the non-core activities.

Given this sub-population differs from ASSNP population, it should be reported separately. The separate reporting will ensure the stability of ASSNP population as well. However together they will capture all Australians with disability.

This expansion on coverage is also timely in the context of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which by 2012 will be in place for 10 years and its participants are not limited to people needing assistance in one of the three core activities. Improved coverage of people with disability in Census collection will provide a valuable source of information to policy makers and general community.

Suggestion 2: NDIS participants

By 2021, the NDIS will be 10 years in the running. It is desirable to include a question to identify NDIS participants. Inclusion of a NDIS identifier in Census will greatly ensure the Census has direct connection and contribution to one of the nation's major social policy reform and largest investments.

However, we recognise that data linkage between the Census data and NDIS participant data set would be a much economical and accurate way to identify the sub-population. Therefore, we encourage the two national agencies

working together on this innovative approach. NDIS identifier in 2021 Census should only be considered if the data linkage fails to eventuate.

Suggestion 3: Dissemination of disability related data

We would like to use this formal opportunity to make a suggestion on disaggregation of ASSNP. Since Census 2006, ASSNP has been released as an aggregated variable that combines the results of four questions (Questions 20-24). However, answers to each of these questions are individually valuable. We ask ABS to consider providing these data items separately, at least in the more advantaged data dissemination channels (for example, TableBuilders, CURF, and potentially in MADIP). This would allow advanced data users to explore the Census statistics to the full potential.

Please feel free to contact us for further information if required.

Your sincerely

Dr Qingsheng Zhou
Senior Research Fellow
University of Sydney

Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn
Professor Family and Disability Studies
Director, Centre for Disability Research and Policy
University of Sydney

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work

- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Insert question on participant in NDIS

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Suggested topic 1. Data on people having restrictions in one of non-core activities is needed for policy development, planning and program monitoring at state and territory level subsequent to the introduction of the NDIS, the COAG principles in relation to responsibility for support and services remaining at state and territory level. Currently data on those needing assistance in core activity is available in Q20 to 23. This is conceptually equivalent to profound and severe disability (ABS (2010) Cat 4431.0.55.002) and only covers about a quarter of people with disability. This data is not adequate for policy development, planning or program monitoring for state and territory purposes in supporting the remaining three-quarters of people with disabilities in Australia.

Suggested topic 2. Question to identify NDIS participants to support policy development, planning and program monitoring as per distribution of responsibility for disability as noted above.

Understanding distribution of people with disabilities as per suggested topic 1 above and as per current Q20-23 as well as suggested topic 2 above in combination with other Census questions would allow for small area examination critical to policy and program planning particularly in regional and remote areas in NDIS (and other disability support) market schemes.

The data for both our suggested topics is central to research on the disparities between people with disabilities of all ages and their non-disabled peers in Australia and to developing targeted as well as population and sub-population based policy, planning and program development and monitoring.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Suggested topic 1 People having a restriction in one of non-core activities. This data is needed for small population groups and for small geographic areas

to complement the existing data on ASSNP from Q20-23 to provide data from Census of the whole population of people with disabilities in Australia.

The value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census. This is not possible currently with data from SDAC.

Suggested topic 2 NDIS participants

This data is needed as NDIS participants are not equivalent to ASSNP respondents. With ASSNP, and the two suggested topics 1 and 2, full population coverage will be achieved, and in addition, the value of this will be enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

The data for both our suggested topics is central to research on the disparities between people with disabilities of all ages and their non-disabled peers in Australia and to developing targeted as well as population and sub-population including small geographic area based policy, planning and program development and monitoring.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Suggested topic 1 People having a restriction in non-core activities

This topic can be collected in a simple question or questions, is easy and quick to answer, easily understood, and has been done successfully in modules already developed by the ABS

Suggested topic 2 NDIS participants

This topic is likely to be easily understood by participants as participation requires application, eligibility assessment, support plan development, and annual review. Collecting this information would require a simple yes/ no response.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Suggested topic 1. People having restriction in one of non-core activities.
The topic complements the already existing question on core activities which is robust and in use since 2006 Census; it would be expected that respondents would react similarly to the suggested included topic.

Suggested topic 2. NDIS participants

The NDIS is significant, ongoing disability support reform receiving bi-partisan and strong community support. It is anticipated that respondents would be willing to answer; as a yes/ no question it is highly likely that respondents would be able to answer accurately

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Suggested topic 1. People having restriction in one of non-core activities
Other ABS disability modules have established a good base for listing these non-core activities. In an ideal world, the question would replicate Q20-24 but for non-core activities. If this is not possible, in order to minimise the survey load, we do not propose to have individual questions for each of these non-core activities. Instead, it should allow as a whole identification of a sub-population who have restriction in any one of the non-core activities.

Suggested topic 2. NDIS participants

As a simple yes/ no question this suggestion will not present major difficulties

for coding, not require extensive processing, will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Suggested topic 1 People having restriction in one of non-core activities
The increasing age profile of the Australian population and the increasing incidence of disability from 65 years supports the inclusion of this topic as relevant for now and into the future. It is also critical for time series data to assist with policy, planning and program projections and specifically in relation to distribution spread (and small areas), and small populations (with other characteristics such as ATSI and CALD).

Suggested topic 2. NDIS participants

The NDIS as a national insurance scheme will remain relevant in the future; time series data on this topic in combination with other characteristics from the Census will provide critical population data for policy, planning and program purposes.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Suggested topic 1. People having restriction in one of non-core activities. There are no other data sources for this information. This information complements the existing ASSNP data available in the Census at Q20-24. This data would

not be able to be produced through integration of existing data sources, including administrative data from the states and territories due to the legislated and administrative frameworks subsequent to the NDIS implementation.

Suggested topic 2. NDIS participants

We recognise that data linkage between the Census data and NDIS participant data set would be a much economical and accurate way to identify the sub-population of NDIS participants. Therefore, we encourage the two national agencies working together on this innovative approach. NDIS identifier in 2021 Census should only be considered if the data linkage fails to eventuate.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Suggestion 3 Dissemination of disability related data

We would like to use this formal opportunity to make a suggestion on disaggregation of ASSNP. Since Census 2006, ASSNP has been released as an aggregated variable that combines the results of four questions (Questions 20-24). However, answers to each of these questions are individually valuable. We ask ABS to consider providing these data items separately, at least in the more advantaged data dissemination channels (for example, TableBuilders, CURF, and potentially in MADIP). This would allow advanced data users to explore the Census statistics to the full potential.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XK66-Z.docx](#)



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 353215830

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Carers Australia

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Our member organisations - state and territory Carer Associations

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Continuation of question on unpaid care.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒

Unpaid care of children

☐

Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person

☒

Unpaid work - domestic activities

☒

Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group

☒

Other/unknown

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KEG-XK6H-J.pdf](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 856954777

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Parliamentary Library, Australian Parliament

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Census provides a rich data set covering very small geographic areas, as well as detailed personal characteristics, such as age. Reliable data about income sources for detailed geographic levels and for specific demographic groups of the population (e.g. retirees and/or people aged 55 years and over) is not currently available.

The Library proposes the collection of additional information on sources of income to enhance the income data already collected through the Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As Australia's population ages, there is growing interest in the number and characteristics of people who fully, or partially, self-fund their own retirement. This theme has been debated in Parliament in relation to proposed changes to superannuation, amendments to taxation legislation and regarding the future provision of services to older people. Statistics on the sources of income available to retired people are relevant to these debates, and are likely to continue to be so in the future. These statistics would be used for research purposes, and to support Parliamentary debate. This data could also be used in combination with a range of other data from the Census, such as housing tenure type.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As described in criterion 1, there is a need for sources of income data for small population groups and small geographic areas. The combination of this data and income ranges would assist in interpreting distributions and medians.

Estimates produced by the ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) do not meet current requirements, due to the sample being insufficiently large enough to enable analysis by small geographic areas or by specific age groups (or both). The Parliamentary Library considers this data set a valuable source of information on income, wealth and expenditure, which could be built on to meet user and client needs. Collecting small area data through SIH would require an enlargement of the survey sample and a framework to produce more reliable sub-state level data, as well as more robust estimates for older Australians.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is directly linked to the question of income. Being asked about the main source of personal (and/or household) income should be fairly straight forward. Respondents could be asked the following type of question: 'What is your (the household's) main source of regular (weekly/fortnightly) income?'

Response categories could be based on those output from the Survey of

Income and Housing, but expanded to include more options (the following example is based on a person-level response):

- Zero/negative income or not applicable
- Employee income (includes overtime and bonuses)
- Own (unincorporated) business income
- Government pensions and allowances (includes Age Pension, Carer allowance/payment, Newstart allowance, Disability Support Pension, Austudy/Abstudy, Family tax benefits, Youth allowance, DVA disability or service pension, Parenting payment, Paid Parental Leave Payment, Widow allowance or Wife pension).
- Investment income (includes dividends, franking credits, financial institution account interest, interest on bonds or debentures, residential or non-residential properties, royalties, beneficiary of a trust, or benefits from being a silent partner).
- Superannuation, annuity or private pension
- Workers' compensation or accident/sickness insurance
- Child support or maintenance
- Other regular source (includes income from family members not living in the household, scholarships, other not elsewhere classified).

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic may be considered somewhat intrusive, based on the (generally) lower response rates to the personal income question in the Census. However, if a person is willing to answer the income question, it is unlikely that a follow up question on their main source of income would be considered any more intrusive. An accurate response from respondents is more likely if the list of options is well defined and examples are provided (as per the income question already asked). The question on main source of income naturally flows from the question about income.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The responses to the main source of income should be relatively straight forward to process, unless some of the groups listed in the example (see criterion 3) are very small. This could be pre-empted by reviewing the data from the Survey of Income and Housing and ensuring the response categories are well defined. There is particular interest in having data available on people who rely mainly on superannuation, annuities and private pensions, so a separate response category would be needed for this group (including them in 'other' is unhelpful).

Extensive data on superannuation was last collected by the ABS in 2007 through the Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation. The survey subsequent to that (2013 Work, Life and Family Survey) was cancelled due to budgetary constraints. While a useful source of information at the national or state level, the Multi-Purpose Household Survey topic, Retirement and Retirement Intentions, does not have a sufficiently large enough sample to enable analysis for small geographies (SA4 or smaller) or small population groups (e.g. 55 years and over by five-year groups). For sources of personal income data, the errors at the SA4 level are too generally high to allow for any reasonable analysis of the data.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a foreseeable need for the type of information being requested. As described in criterion 1, with population ageing, there is a need for data on how people are funding their retirement. In particular, there is interest in knowing the number/proportion of older people relying on government pensions compared to those who are self-funded, including those funded through compulsory superannuation schemes. With larger waves of people retiring with superannuation balances, this data will become increasingly sought after. Whether the Census is the right vehicle to collect such information, or whether the ABS can boost existing household surveys to allow for more robust data sets to be created, is a decision for the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As earlier described, several ABS household surveys provide limited data of the type sought. The recognised data sets do not have sufficient sample to enable analysis by very small geographic areas or by very small population groups. The ability to cross-reference main source of personal (or household) income with other demographic and geographic variables is a place that the Census uniquely occupies. As suggested, increasing the sample size (and selection framework) of some of the aforementioned surveys would be an alternate way to meet user and client needs, without changing the Census.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1055266611

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The proposal is to collect data documenting the pain experience of all Australians. In particular, how many Australians (inclusive of children and adolescents) experience intrusive chronic/persistent pain?

There was already substantial impetus to include health topics related to smoking and long-term health conditions. The latter might be a single question listing several options from which people may select as many as apply. I believe this is a great opportunity to better capture and track Australian population trends with regard to intrusive chronic pain.

This would enable better-informed public health and clinical policy and service planning. Furthermore, mapping and longitudinally tracking the gap between

rates of intrusive chronic pain amongst Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations stands to inform strategies to 'Close the Gap'.

Anecdotally this gap is unconscionably high.

Chronic pain must to be considered in addition to other long-term health conditions because:

- Although it is an essential feature of some long-term conditions (eg. migraine and back pain), pain is not a necessary feature of most. Pain is common but not universal amongst people who self-identify as having other long-term conditions that have appeared in previous ABS surveys eg. diabetes, cardiovascular (heart or blood vessel) disease, respiratory (lung) disease, osteoporosis (bone density problem) or even rheumatoid or osteoarthritis arthritis (that may be well-controlled or based on X-ray changes alone). Therefore, these long-term condition labels cannot be used as surrogate measures of Australian chronic pain experience.
- Pain can be experienced when no other long-term conditions have been diagnosed or self-identified. It is widely considered a condition in its own right.
- Pain may be a modifier of disability, and need for carers, associated with long-term health conditions. It may also be a modifier of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health - Chronic Pain

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Pain, and chronic pain in particular, are topics of current national and global importance.

Chronic pain is estimated to affect almost one in five adult Australians (Blyth 2001, Henderson 2013). For an estimated one in twenty Australians, chronic pain is moderately or severely limiting (Blyth, 2001). There are no Australian population-based data on chronic pain in childhood but international literature and clinical load suggest the prevalence is similar to that in young adults.

Chronic pain carries high economic and human capital costs (Access Economics, 2007, <http://fpm.anzca.edu.au/documents/thehighpriceofpainfinal-185.pdf>). The total cost of chronic pain in Australia in 2007 was estimated at \$34.3 billion, with 58% of costs borne by individuals and families/friends, 27% by government (22% federal; 5% state/territory), and 15% by employers and society.

In 2010, a National Pain Summit in Canberra, attended by a broad range of stakeholders, led to the National Pain Strategy

(<http://www.painaustralia.org.au/static/uploads/files/national-pain-strategy-2011-wfvjawttsanq.pdf>) that articulates the mission, goals, and priority objectives agreed by the Summit. Objectives 5 and 6 address quality improvement, evaluation and research. The establishment of ePPOC, the

Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration

(<https://ahsri.uow.edu.au/eppoc/index.html>), was an important step, but only measures the experiences and outcomes of those currently accessing tertiary pain services.

There is a clear need for more granular, population-based data and time-trend data to inform policy and healthcare planning. Such data could inform the public health agenda (Blyth, 2015), or clarify workforce and training needs of regional general practices and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. Together with ePPOC data, Census data could be used to determine whether all Australians have equitable access to tertiary services, irrespective of cultural, socio-economic and remoteness status, and develop policies to address inequities.

These data would enable a national research agenda to improve the lives of Australian children, adolescents and adults living with pain.

References

Blyth FM, March LM, Brnabic AJM, Jorm LR, Williamson M, Cousins MJ.

Chronic pain in Australia: a prevalence study. *Pain* 2001; 89: 127-134.

Blyth FM, Van Der Windt DA, Croft PR. Chronic disabling pain: a significant public health problem. *Am J Prev Med* 2015; 49(1): 98-101.

Henderson JV, Harrison CM, Britt HC, Bayram CF, Miller GC. Prevalence, causes, severity, impact, and management of chronic pain in Australian general practice patients. *Pain Medicine* 2013; 14: 1346-1361.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed for small population groups:

- o Research indicates that sex and age both affect the prevalence and types of pain experience. As the population ages, patterns can be tracked by repeated census.

- o It is already recognised that culturally and linguistically diverse groups require tailored pain assessment and pain management programs. Granular data will

help predict needs and optimal locations for services.

- o Intrusive pain may be more prevalent amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for many reasons including a higher burden of chronic conditions, injuries and trauma. Elders cite rates of one in three Indigenous Australians experiencing chronic pain. 23% of the children and adolescents seen in our Children's Complex Pain Service are Aboriginal. Yet we cannot compare Indigenous and non-Indigenous population-based data about prevalence by age, severity, disability, education attainment and socio-economic correlates.

- o Many ABS health surveys and research studies have excluded children <16 years. However, the census is an accepted means of gaining parent-proxy data regarding household children.

Data is needed for small geographic areas:

- o On a national level, mapping population pain prevalence data versus pain management resources, could lead to better matching of services to needs across each jurisdiction, and predict where new services might be needed as the population grows and ages.

- o Government and Local Health Districts will be able to comprehensively describe the local population with pain that they must serve, to identify service needs and gaps.

- o Being able to compare ABS statistical area/LGA data with existing health service data would greatly improve service evaluation and planning at the Local Health District level.

- o Designing services to meet the needs of Australians living in rural and remote areas requires small population data regarding pain, disability, and access to transport, and/or technology. For instance, designing telehealth systems to support communities may be of little benefit if the community does not access telecommunications.

The value of including pain in the Census is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected:

- o Pain by all ages and genders within the household enables a comprehensive population description, unavailable elsewhere.

- o Pain by granular geographic regions is critical for policy and planning as discussed above.

- o Associations between SEIFA indices and tertiary pain service access are evident in our own local service data. I have submitted a proposal to include SEIFA indices in the next version of ePPOC to enhance outcomes reports and research. The inter-relationship between social determinants of pain, and the socio-economic consequences of pain, will be an important area of future Australian research.

- o Associations between other long-term conditions and pain/pain-related

disability will highlight the need for pain management to be included as part of the specific chronic disease management strategy.

o Clustering of chronic pain experiences within families or households is of research interest.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Pain is a widely understood term. Because it is a 'sensory and emotional experience' (IASP 1994, 2012) self-report is the gold-standard. Also, because pain is an aversive experience, people generally recall if it is present over time, and approximately how long it has been a problem for them.

Although it is an internal experience, humans communicate their pain experiences verbally and non-verbally to those around them to ascertain help and/or comfort. Generally, adults within a house hold will know if a child, another adult, or an elder experiences chronic pain. Carers are valid proxies when a person cannot self-report pain. It is expected that respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s).

The exact wording of the question can be determined through consensus between ABS, clinical/policy stakeholders and researchers. The following interim questions are based on the IASP field study of the new classification of chronic pain in ICD-11 (Rief, 2010), because this is the most likely international standard for coming decades:

Chronic pain is pain that persists or recurs for longer than 3 months. Do you have chronic pain? Yes / No

If YES, does pain cause significant emotional distress (anxiety, anger/frustration or depressed mood) AND/OR functional disability (interference in daily life activities and reduced participation in social roles)?
Yes / No

References

International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Classification of Chronic

Pain. Originally published 1986, with second edition published in 1994, and updates in 2011 and 2012.

Rief W, Kaasa S, Jensen R, Perrot S, Vlaeyen JWS, Treede R, Vissers KCP. The need to revise pain diagnoses in ICD-11. Pain 2010; 149(2): 169 – 170.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Asking about some health topics may be considered intrusive, but most people with pain genuinely appreciate being asked about it.

The question does not ask for intrusive detail. By combining emotional and physical impact in a combined severity-qualifying sub-question, people are not required to explicitly disclose emotional impact. This is particularly important for those who require a third part to assist them in completion or submission of Census forms.

Although people with chronic pain may be stigmatized in some settings (eg. workplace, litigation) it is unlikely that the Census would be viewed as stigmatizing. Respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately.

These questions or similar have been used in state-wide population surveys within Australia, the first instance being the 1997 NSW Adult Health Survey conducted by the then NSW Department of Health (Blyth, 2001), and others including the South Australian Omnibus Survey (WA Department of Health).

References

Blyth FM, March LM, Brnabic AJM, Jorm LR, Williamson M, Cousins MJ.

Chronic pain in Australia: a prevalence study. Pain 2001; 89: 127-134.

WA Department of Health and the SA Department of Human Services for the ABS. Results of Field Testing Three Modules of Core Health Questions for Inclusion in a Nation-Wide Preventable Chronic Disease and Behavioural Risk Factor Survey Module Manual. (undated)

https://health.adelaide.edu.au/pros/docs/reports/report_health_survey.pdf

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As outlined in Assessment Criteria 3, I propose a simple opening question with dichotomous answer that will be easy to code and process. It will not significantly add to the time or cost burdens associated with the Census. If respondents answer 'No' they could be directed to skip to the next topic. If respondents answer 'Yes' they would complete one severity-qualifying sub-question. Although it is tempting to recommend an ordinal scale here, the dichotomous response type is simple, will identify the proportion with intrusive chronic pain, and therefore satisfies the main purpose. Alternatively, the ordinal scale for pain interference used in the NHS 2014-15 could be considered – refer to <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4363.0~2014-15~Main%20Features~Bodily%20pain~33>.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic will remain relevant in the future. The number of Australians with chronic pain is predicted to increase over coming decades as our population ages and as it expands numerically (Access Economics, 2007 <http://fpm.anzca.edu.au/documents/thehighpriceofpainfinal-185.pdf>). As the burden of disease due to chronic non-communicable diseases continues to grow, the contribution of chronic pain to long-term condition disability and costs will become increasingly important. To date, prevalence and cost predictions have been derived from rates of chronic pain in regional/state population samples being extrapolated to the

known Australian population at risk. Policy and service planning requires whole population and time series data to ensure public health and service planning remains responsive to real-world and regional changes.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

In Australia, identifiable and re-identifiable health information collected for clinical and administrative purposes is protected by privacy legislation. Any information submitted to disease or device registries requires ethics approval and informed consent.

We have examined ABS surveys and other data sources including:

1) National Health Survey (NHS) 2014-15:

- o Module 7: Mental Well-Being includes questions about the frequency and severity of bodily or physical pain in the last 4 weeks are under (PAIN_Q01 and PAIN_Q02)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4363.0~2014-15~Main%20Features~Bodily%20pain~33>

- o Module 8: Disability also includes questions related to pain, in particular, 2. Chronic or recurring pain [that has lasted, or is likely to last, for six months or more] (first appears at DIS_Q02). This leads into sub-questions about the primacy of the various conditions, their effects on everyday activities, and their association with needing care. Also in Module 8, but listed separately, is 18. Any condition that restricts physical activity or physical work (e.g. back problems, migraines).

- o Despite having a large sample of some 19,000 people across urban, rural and remote areas it only private residences were sampled and within them, only one adult plus one child (if appropriate) were included to allow comprehensive data collection. Many items including those addressing pain were only reported for those >15 years of age.

- o Data are not searchable at granular geographic levels.

2) Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) 2012-13:

- o Long-term health conditions examined included asthma, ear diseases and hearing problems, diabetes, heart and circulatory diseases, and kidney disease.
 - o Chronic pain was not included per se.
 - o Although also a large population-based sample, only one adult and one child (as appropriate) were selected and there was differential data collection from those who lived in remote areas compared with others.
- 3) Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration 2012+:
- o Only persons referred to a tertiary chronic pain service are eligible to participate.
 - o This data source is valuable but only for the small subset of people with chronic pain who are selected, due to severity, complexity, advantage, advocacy, or proximity, to attend a pain service.
 - o It is not a substitute for Census level data.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Letters of support for this proposal may.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 828169694

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Darebin City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The City of Darebin is located in the inner north of Melbourne, Victoria with a diverse population of 158,553 residents who speak more than a 100 languages and come from more than 100 countries. We provide more than 60 discreet services to all of our residents.

ABS Census data has helped us better understand our community demographics and needs, and helped shape our service delivery to encourage the best possible outcomes for our communities.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Council would welcome the possibility of the next Census containing questions that more accurately reflect the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) residents of Australia.

We acknowledge the attempt of the 2016 Census to follow the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender and the ABS Standard for Sex and Gender Variables and the aim of the 2016 Census to make it possible for all Australians to report their sex/gender in a way not limited to 'male' or 'female'.

We think that, following the 2016 iteration and the results of the pilot test, the

option to select “other: please specify” should be added in both the online and paper forms as a default and not as a special request making it extremely unlikely that most people (beyond those already in the know and extremely committed) would request a tri-option form.

Recommendation1: that the sex/gender question be phrased “Is the person male, female or other?” as a default in both the online and paper forms and the option to select “Other: please specify” as an answer to this be the standard (as per the ABS Standard for Sex and Gender Variables).

Council also argues that sexual orientation is a separate category that needs to be included in data collection. Sexual orientation can be defined as an affectionate, emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to, and/or intimate relationship with, individuals of a particular sex. Thus, sexual orientation might be characterised as heterosexual, lesbian, gay, or bisexual. Knowing about people’s sexual orientation allows to capture the L,G,B population more accurately than the reporting of same-sex couples (which is only a small part of it).

Recommendation 2: that Sexual orientation be included, as a category, in the Australian Census (and all other statistical collections) and include: heterosexual, lesbian, gay, and bisexual.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data around sex, sexuality and gender diversity is needed from a Census of the whole population because there is no reliable information on factual prevalence - only estimates, and with same-sex marriage and greater visibility of GLBTIQ and non-binary gender representation in society, we think it is of paramount importance to understand how many residents represent this community and their living circumstances. We already have policies and programs to assist these communities but having small geographic areas and the ability to cross-tab this data with other census information will help further

refine these programs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We believe that the recommendations we made in regards to gender and sexuality will be easily understood, collected and while most people will continue to be Male or Female, it will allow others who do not subscribe to a binary gender to be represented.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

We believe that with greater visibility and acceptance of GLBTIQ and non-gender conforming people, this topic is no longer likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Questions around gender identity can be easily included in the current sex question. As for sexuality, a further question can be included which should not require extensive processing, significantly cost more or require a lengthy explanation.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As our society continues to embrace and accept LGBTIQ individuals, it is important to track how society changes over time and this might be reflected in the increased willingness for people to embrace their sexuality/gender identity and note it in the Census. It will provide a significant measure of societal progress, and in time will provide a true baseline for how diverse all of our communities really are.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no other sources of data other than a small sample survey we conduct every 5 years that does ask about gender diversity and sexuality. Unfortunately this result is an under count because unless you have a Census of everyone, you will not be able to accurately represent a minority community in a sample-based survey.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 209188942

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Inter-jurisdictional group comprising officials from Commonwealth, state and territory transport and infrastructure agencies.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- National Transport Commission
- Transport for NSW
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria
- Transport for Victoria
- Department of Transport, Western Australia
- Department of Main Roads, Western Australia
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, South Australia
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory

- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- Australian Local Government Association

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Modification to 2016 Census Question 25 “What type of educational institution is the person attending?”

This relates to a change to an existing topic.

A modification is recommended to 2016 Census Question 25 “What type of educational institution is the person attending”. It is recommended it be modified to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability to be used with a potential new question on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☒ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Location of Place of Education attended

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒

Mode of travel to work

☒

Name and address of workplace attended

☒

Number of motor vehicles

☐

Other/unknown

If other please specify

Attendance at an education institution, Location of place of education attended

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reasons for our support for the modification of the question on type of education institution attending to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town are detailed below.

- For more than 10 years, State Transport Authorities (STAs) have advocated for Census content change to collect data relating to Journey to Education (JtE).
- Data is essential on the Place of Education attended to improve information available for school and general transport infrastructure and services planning and investment, and transport policy development.
- Education travel often coincides with journey to work travel, particularly in the morning peak accounting for approximately 35 percent of trips (similar to

journey to work as a percentage of peak journeys) in major urban regions, but the spatial distribution of many of these journeys is not well understood.

Journey to Education data including Place of Education would be useful to understand the contribution of the education trips to peak travel at the local level, so Census data would provide finer grain accuracy.

- Spatial information by Place of Education and Place of Residence linked to other Census data would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve both transport and education infrastructure and service planning and investment.
- In order to ensure transport planning, infrastructure investment and operational refinements are made with an appropriate evidence-base, more detailed spatial information in regards to journeys to education, to complement journey to work data, is required.
- Such data is required as an input, calibration and/or validation variable for strategic transport models that cover most Australian capital city areas and their surrounding regions. Strategic transport models include a number of trip purposes relating to education for example: (1) primary school education, (2) secondary school education, and (3) tertiary education. There is currently a lack of comprehensive information to calibrate and validate their distribution models.
- Place of education information coupled with mode used for journey to education could be used to inform planning and evaluate the efficacy of infrastructure investments, operational changes (such as the inclusion of new bus services) and school travel behaviour change programs.
- Other government agencies such as local and Commonwealth agencies, will also benefit from the data. Examples of potential local government use of JtE data including Place of Education include:
 - o Analysis of the travel patterns around school sites, to assist in addressing the current and future traffic management pressures directly around schools.
 - o The data could assist in reviewing all travel patterns in a suburb, correlating this data with existing traffic counts, which could assist in planning the future road network upgrades. This is similar to State agency use of the data for transport modelling.
 - o Additional understanding of the needs of remote and regional students, specifically whether the existing access to bus services is adequate (i.e. the correlation of the distance between home and school and the access to bus services).
 - o The data could assist in addressing community safety (incidences of violence) issues and justification for the provision of adequate street lighting. This could provide additional Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) urban design outcomes to provide a safe environment for students

studying at campuses at night that are walking or using public transport.

- Place of Education (POEP) directly linked with Place of Residence and other socio-economic data from the Census would potentially improve data available to inform school funding arrangements. From 1 January 2018, amendments to the Australian Education Act 2013 took effect. The amendments include Australian Government funding arrangements for both government and non-government schools.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While a number of STAs have previously collected data on journeys to education as part of a household travel survey, data collected from such surveys are based on a small sample of population and only in some parts of their state, and is thus not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide. In addition to this, in some states their household travel survey data is quite dated.

Household travel surveys are typically very small. For example, some collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for model development generally representing average regional behaviour.

More spatially detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. Inputs to such models and analyses couple residential (home) and daytime (for example, place of work or education) location of the population including students with other demographic characteristics in the Census to derive models that replicate travel patterns of the current population. These models are then applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Similarly, for education planning, spatial information by Place of Education combined with other characteristics from the Census would enable more

detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve education infrastructure and service planning and investment. The current level of detail from the 2016 Census only provides information about students at their place of residence but planning effort and investment targeting could be improved if the education facility location dimension were added. This would potentially improve the Australian Government school funding allocation model which currently uses Socio Economic Status (SES) scores generated using Census data on all residents in an SA1.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a) in the lead up to its March 2018 Census, the final 2018 NZ Census educational address question was very simple and collected information on:

- Name of pre-school, school or other place of education
- Campus and/or suburb
- City, town or district

Online submission note: [see Stats NZ 2018 Census Q 20 image on page 6 of attached PDF version of this ATDAN submission] (Stats NZ, 2018b)

Testing found that respondents were very likely to understand the educational institution question, know the answer to such questions and to be able to answer quickly.

Non-response in the NZ Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, and for city was reasonably low. It should be possible to determine the geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.

Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

Footnotes:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Stats NZ. (2018b). New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. Individual form Tuesday 6 March 2018. Retrieved from Stats NZ Store House: <https://cdm20045.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll2/id/713/rec/3>

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The existing Australian Census question already asks 'What type of educational institution is the person attending?' The possible responses include Preschool, Infants/Primary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Secondary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Tertiary Institution (TAFE, University or higher, Other). There is a trend towards schools increasing the diversity of year levels that they offer, that is, a trend toward schools providing for both primary and secondary year levels. The proposed revised question may be easier and more acceptable for respondents to answer correctly.

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to place of education would likely be similar to the place of work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide detailed explanations. Also, the revised POEP question would only be asked where there is a person attending school or any other education institution.

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a), non-response in their 2018 NZ Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, for city was reasonably low. It should be possible to determine the

geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.

Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

Footnote:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The collection of data on education institution name and location will require just one question. The topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation as respondents are very likely to know the answer to a question on education institution name and location, and to be able to answer quickly. The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification of Question 25 would be similar to that currently used.

The name and location of the education institution attended could be coded using a database compiled from Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and/or the Australian Department of Education and Training (for government and non-government P-12 schools), National Register for Training in Australia (for RTOs), Universities Australia, TAFEQld, TAFENSW and so on. The coding database could possibly contain as a minimum: institution name, campus/suburb, city, state, type (government, Catholic, other non-government), year level range (Preschool, P-12, TAFE, Uni), latitude and longitude. It could probably have full street address details as well. The database may be able to use the same structure as the database ABS uses for Workplace Address coding with additional field/s for institution type coding.

Places of education would have higher locational determinability than places of work.

It is envisaged it would add marginal cost to processing as it would use the same coding capability and databases ABS uses for workplace address coding with additional information on institution type.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on the topic in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based transport modelling, planning and policy development.

There will also potentially be continuing need for the data to support requirements of education funding allocation models and for education infrastructure planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While some STAs have previously collected data on place of education as part of household travel surveys, household travel surveys target a small (for example, less than 1%) sample of the population by place of residence which is

not at the level of spatial detail as the Census would be able to provide, and never covers the whole of the state.

It is possible to use respective state education agency information only for government school enrolments (and student residences at SA1 level) but non-government schools are a significant data gap and growing. There has been an increase in the share of students attending non-government schools. In Queensland, for example, between 2006 and 2016, this increased from 38.5% to 39.3% for secondary; 28.7% to 28.9% for primary and from 32.7% to 33.3% for all schools.

It is understood that the Australian Department of Education and Training (DET) has P-12 student residential address or location data for each school and that information is used by the Australian Government to decide how much money each school should get. From the DET website - "A school's SES score is calculated using student residential addresses and a socio-economic index based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing (Census) data." (Department of Education and Training, 2018)

If the Australian Government were to make place of residence (PoR) by place of education (PoE) data for P-12 education institutions it may provide some of the required information albeit only for primary, secondary and combination schools. What would still be missing is PoR by PoE for post-secondary students. Another shortcoming of the DET data is that it would not provide nor be able to be linked to information on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP). Nor would it be able to be directly or accurately linked to household level social-economic data from the Census. This is alluded to in a late 2017 research paper on the funding arrangements methodology for DET (Department of Education and Training, 2017).

Footnotes:

Department of Education and Training. (2017). The Socio-Economic Status (SES) score methodology used in recurrent school funding arrangements.

Retrieved from Department of Education and Training:

https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/forinfo-vu-ses_score_research_paper-webaccessible_1.pdf

Department of Education and Training. (2018). What is the Schooling Resource Standard and how does it work? Retrieved from Department of Education and Training: <https://www.education.gov.au/what-schooling-resource-standard-and-how-does-it-work>

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

STA first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

Modifying 2016 Census Question 25 "What type of educational institution is the person attending" to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town should occur no matter what the priorities might be for any other alterations to content.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability.

This would finally provide both the Transport and Education portfolios in all levels of government with comprehensive student catchment information that could be more accurately linked with Census socio-economic data for education related funding allocation, and planning and provision of transport and education infrastructure and services.

The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification would be similar to that currently used for Question 25. Online submission note: [see images of sample 2016 and mock 2021 questions on page 12 of attached PDF version of this ATDAN submission]

STA second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place

of Education’

- Alternate between new question ‘Method of Travel to Education’ and existing Question 54 ‘Number of Motor Vehicles’

The proposed Census content changes are supported by all ATDAN members.

Support has also been confirmed from:

- The Australian Department of Education and Training - The department is supportive of the ATDAN proposal and may be able to help with construction of the questions involved, especially around institution locations.
- The Department of Education, Western Australia – inclusion of the proposed “Journey to Education “ data question will:
 - o Enable additional analysis of resident/parental behaviour in the important work of developing and reviewing school local-intake areas which form the basis for school enrolment eligibility at public schools, particularly where distances are an issue in determining boundaries in urban areas where transport is generally by private vehicle, foot or bicycle having this data will be highly valuable.
 - o Assist in ensuring safe and practical traffic management planning as part of developing new schools and managing existing schools. Such transportation data will better inform designers and planners of the potential density and type of vehicular traffic expected in and around a school.
- The Department of Education, Queensland – supports the proposal, conditional on all existing data outputs for education-related questions and jurisdictional access to the data required for planning and reporting will remain.
- Western Australian Local Government Association – inclusion of the Journey to Education data into the Census could provide additional tangible data to be used by the WA Local Government Sector. The uses are listed as the 4 sub-dot points in Assessment Criteria 1 above.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 824698638

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Inter-jurisdictional group comprising officials from Commonwealth, state and territory transport and infrastructure agencies.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- National Transport Commission
- Transport for NSW
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria
- Transport for Victoria
- Department of Transport, Western Australia
- Department of Main Roads, Western Australia
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, South Australia
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory

- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- Australian Local Government Association

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Modification to 2016 Census Question 25 “What type of educational institution is the person attending?”

This relates to a change to an existing topic.

A modification is recommended to 2016 Census Question 25 “What type of educational institution is the person attending”. It is recommended it be modified to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability to be used with a potential new question on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

(

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☒ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Location of Place of Education attended

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reasons for our support for the modification of the question on type of education institution attending to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town are detailed below.

- For more than 10 years, State Transport Authorities (STAs) have advocated for Census content change to collect data relating to Journey to Education (JtE).
- Data is essential on the Place of Education attended to improve information available for school and general transport infrastructure and services planning and investment, and transport policy development.
- Education travel often coincides with journey to work travel, particularly in the morning peak accounting for approximately 35 percent of trips (similar to journey to work as a percentage of peak journeys) in major urban regions, but the spatial distribution of many of these journeys is not well understood. Journey to Education data including Place of Education would be useful to understand the contribution of the education trips to peak travel at the local level, so Census data would provide finer grain accuracy.
- Spatial information by Place of Education and Place of Residence linked to other Census data would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve both transport and education infrastructure and service planning and investment.
- In order to ensure transport planning, infrastructure investment and operational refinements are made with an appropriate evidence-base, more detailed spatial information in regards to journeys to education, to complement journey to work data, is required.
- Such data is required as an input, calibration and/or validation variable for strategic transport models that cover most Australian capital city areas and their surrounding regions. Strategic transport models include a number of trip purposes relating to education for example: (1) primary school education, (2) secondary school education, and (3) tertiary education. There is currently a lack of comprehensive information to calibrate and validate their distribution models.

- Place of education information coupled with mode used for journey to education could be used to inform planning and evaluate the efficacy of infrastructure investments, operational changes (such as the inclusion of new bus services) and school travel behaviour change programs.
- Other government agencies such as local and Commonwealth agencies, will also benefit from the data. Examples of potential local government use of JtE data including Place of Education include:
 - o Analysis of the travel patterns around school sites, to assist in addressing the current and future traffic management pressures directly around schools.
 - o The data could assist in reviewing all travel patterns in a suburb, correlating this data with existing traffic counts, which could assist in planning the future road network upgrades. This is similar to State agency use of the data for transport modelling.
 - o Additional understanding of the needs of remote and regional students, specifically whether the existing access to bus services is adequate (i.e. the correlation of the distance between home and school and the access to bus services).
 - o The data could assist in addressing community safety (incidences of violence) issues and justification for the provision of adequate street lighting. This could provide additional Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) urban design outcomes to provide a safe environment for students studying at campuses at night that are walking or using public transport.
- Place of Education (POEP) directly linked with Place of Residence and other socio-economic data from the Census would potentially improve data available to inform school funding arrangements. From 1 January 2018, amendments to the Australian Education Act 2013 took effect. The amendments include Australian Government funding arrangements for both government and non-government schools.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While a number of STAs have previously collected data on journeys to education as part of a household travel survey, data collected from such

surveys are based on a small sample of population and only in some parts of their state, and is thus not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide. In addition to this, in some states their household travel survey data is quite dated.

Household travel surveys are typically very small. For example, some collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for model development generally representing average regional behaviour.

More spatially detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. Inputs to such models and analyses couple residential (home) and daytime (for example, place of work or education) location of the population including students with other demographic characteristics in the Census to derive models that replicate travel patterns of the current population. These models are then applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Similarly, for education planning, spatial information by Place of Education combined with other characteristics from the Census would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve education infrastructure and service planning and investment. The current level of detail from the 2016 Census only provides information about students at their place of residence but planning effort and investment targeting could be improved if the education facility location dimension were added. This would potentially improve the Australian Government school funding allocation model which currently uses Socio Economic Status (SES) scores generated using Census data on all residents in an SA1.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a) in the lead up to its March 2018 Census, the final 2018 NZ Census educational address question was very simple and collected information on:

- Name of pre-school, school or other place of education
- Campus and/or suburb
- City, town or district

Online submission note: [see Stats NZ 2018 Census Q 20 image on page 6 of attached PDF version of this ATDAN submission]
(Stats NZ, 2018b)

Testing found that respondents were very likely to understand the educational institution question, know the answer to such questions and to be able to answer quickly.

Non-response in the NZ Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, and for city was reasonably low. It should be possible to determine the geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.

Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

Footnotes:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Stats NZ. (2018b). New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. Individual form Tuesday 6 March 2018. Retrieved from Stats NZ Store House: <https://cdm20045.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll2/id/713/rec/3>

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The existing Australian Census question already asks 'What type of educational institution is the person attending?' The possible responses include Preschool, Infants/Primary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Secondary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Tertiary Institution (TAFE, University or higher, Other). There is a trend towards schools increasing the diversity of year levels that they offer, that is, a trend toward schools providing for both primary and secondary year levels. The proposed revised question may be easier and more acceptable for respondents to answer correctly.

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to place of education would likely be similar to the place of work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide detailed explanations. Also, the revised POEP question would only be asked where there is a person attending school or any other education institution.

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Footnote:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The collection of data on education institution name and location will require just one question. The topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation

as respondents are very likely to know the answer to a question on education institution name and location, and to be able to answer quickly. The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification of Question 25 would be similar to that currently used.

The name and location of the education institution attended could be coded using a database compiled from Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and/or the Australian Department of Education and Training (for government and non-government P-12 schools), National Register for Training in Australia (for RTOs), Universities Australia, TAFEQld, TAFENSW and so on. The coding database could possibly contain as a minimum: institution name, campus/suburb, city, state, type (government, Catholic, other non-government), year level range (Preschool, P-12, TAFE, Uni), latitude and longitude. It could probably have full street address details as well. The database may be able to use the same structure as the database ABS uses for Workplace Address coding with additional field/s for institution type coding.

Places of education would have higher locational determinability than places of work.

It is envisaged it would add marginal cost to processing as it would use the same coding capability and databases ABS uses for workplace address coding with additional information on institution type.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on the topic in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based transport modelling, planning and policy development.

There will also potentially be continuing need for the data to support

requirements of education funding allocation models and for education infrastructure planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While some STAs have previously collected data on place of education as part of household travel surveys, household travel surveys target a small (for example, less than 1%) sample of the population by place of residence which is not at the level of spatial detail as the Census would be able to provide, and never covers the whole of the state.

It is possible to use respective state education agency information only for government school enrolments (and student residences at SA1 level) but non-government schools are a significant data gap and growing. There has been an increase in the share of students attending non-government schools. In Queensland, for example, between 2006 and 2016, this increased from 38.5% to 39.3% for secondary; 28.7% to 28.9% for primary and from 32.7% to 33.3% for all schools.

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of education (PoE) data for P-12 education institutions it may provide some of the required information albeit only for primary, secondary and combination schools. What would still be missing is PoR by PoE for post-secondary students. Another shortcoming of the DET data is that it would not provide nor be able to be linked to information on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP). Nor would it be able to be directly or accurately linked to household level social-economic data from the Census. This is alluded to in a late 2017 research paper on the funding arrangements methodology for DET (Department of Education and Training, 2017).

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Department of Education and Training. (2018). What is the Schooling Resource Standard and how does it work? Retrieved from Department of Education and Training: <https://www.education.gov.au/what-schooling-resource-standard-and-how-does-it-work>

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

STA first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

Modifying 2016 Census Question 25 "What type of educational institution is the person attending" to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or

other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town should occur no matter what the priorities might be for any other alterations to content.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability.

This would finally provide both the Transport and Education portfolios in all levels of government with comprehensive student catchment information that could be more accurately linked with Census socio-economic data for education related funding allocation, and planning and provision of transport and education infrastructure and services.

The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification would be similar to that currently used for Question 25. Online submission note: [see images of sample 2016 and mock 2021 questions on page 12 of attached PDF version of this ATDAN submission]

STA second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

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- Alternate between new question 'Method of Travel to Education' and existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

The proposed Census content changes are supported by all ATDAN members.

Support has also been confirmed from:

- The Australian Department of Education and Training - The department is supportive of the ATDAN proposal and may be able to help with construction of the questions involved, especially around institution locations.
- The Department of Education, Western Australia – inclusion of the proposed "Journey to Education " data question will:
 - o Enable additional analysis of resident/parental behaviour in the important work of developing and reviewing school local-intake areas which form the basis for school enrolment eligibility at public schools, particularly where distances are an issue in determining boundaries in urban areas where transport is generally by private vehicle, foot or bicycle having this data will be highly valuable.
 - o Assist in ensuring safe and practical traffic management planning as part of

developing new schools and managing existing schools. Such transportation data will better inform designers and planners of the potential density and type of vehicular traffic expected in and around a school.

- The Department of Education, Queensland – supports the proposal, conditional on all existing data outputs for education-related questions and jurisdictional access to the data required for planning and reporting will remain.
- Western Australian Local Government Association – inclusion of the Journey to Education data into the Census could provide additional tangible data to be used by the WA Local Government Sector. The uses are listed as the 4 sub-dot points in Assessment Criteria 1 above.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 778459292

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Inter-jurisdictional group comprising officials from Commonwealth, state and territory transport and infrastructure agencies.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

- Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- National Transport Commission
- Transport for NSW
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria
- Transport for Victoria
- Department of Transport, Western Australia
- Department of Main Roads, Western Australia
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, South Australia
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory

- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- Australian Local Government Association

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

New topic "Method of travel to education".

A new topic is recommended on "Method of travel to educational institution". It is recommended that the question design be based on 2016 Census Question 45 method of travel to work but with modifications to 2 mark boxes to make the topic education rather than work specific.

This topic would also allow introduction of a new classification for Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) that could be used with a potential modification of another topic to derive Place of Education (POEP) to allow output of Journey to Education travel patterns from Census data.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care

- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Mode of travel to education

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reasons for our support for the introduction of the question on method of travel to education are detailed below.

- For more than 10 years, State Transport Authorities (STAs) have advocated for Census content change to collect data relating to Journey to Education (JtE).
- Data is essential on the Method of Travel to Education to improve information available for school transport and general transport infrastructure and services planning and investment, and transport policy development.
- Education travel often coincides with journey to work travel, particularly in the morning peak accounting for approximately 35 percent of trips (similar to journey to work as a percentage of peak journeys) in major urban regions, but the method of travel and spatial distribution of many of these journeys is not well understood. JtE data including Method of Travel to Education would be useful to understand the contribution of the education trips to peak travel at the local level. Census data would provide finer grain accuracy.
- Method of Travel to Education linked to spatial information by Place of Education and Place of Residence and other Census data would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve both transport and education infrastructure and service planning and investment.
- In order to ensure transport planning, infrastructure investment and operational refinements are made with an appropriate evidence-base, more detailed mode use information in regards to journeys to education is required.
- Such data is required as an input, calibration and/or validation variable for strategic transport models that cover most Australian capital city areas and their surrounding regions. Strategic transport models include a number of trip purposes relating to education for example: (1) primary school education, (2) secondary school education, and (3) tertiary education. There is currently a lack of comprehensive information to calibrate and validate their distribution models.
- Mode used for journey to education coupled with Place of Education information could be used to inform planning and evaluate the efficacy of infrastructure investments, operational changes (such as the inclusion of new bus services) and travel behaviour change programs.
- Other government agencies such as local and Commonwealth agencies, will also benefit from the data. Examples of potential local government use of JtE data including Method of Travel to Education include:
 - o Analysis of the travel patterns and modes used around school sites, to assist

in addressing the current and future traffic management pressures directly around schools.

- o The data could assist in reviewing all travel patterns in a suburb, correlating this data with existing traffic counts, which could assist in planning the future road network upgrades. This is similar to State agency use of the data for transport modelling.

- o Additional understanding of the needs of remote and regional students, specifically whether the existing access to bus services is adequate (i.e. the correlation of the distance between home and school and the access to bus services).

- o The data could assist in addressing community safety (incidences of violence) issues and justification for the provision of adequate street lighting. This could provide additional Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) urban design outcomes to provide a safe environment for students studying at campuses at night that are walking or using public transport.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While a number of STAs have previously collected data on journeys to education as part of a household travel survey, data collected from such surveys are based on a small sample of population and only in some parts of their state, and is thus not at the level of detail that the Census would be able to provide. In addition to this, in some states their household travel survey data is quite dated.

Household travel surveys are typically very small. For example, some collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for model development generally representing average regional behaviour.

More detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. Inputs to such models and analyses couple method of travel with residential (home) and daytime (for

example, place of work or education) location of the population including students with other demographic characteristics in the Census to derive models that replicate travel patterns of the current population. These models are then applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The final 2018 NZ Census question on means of travel to education was based on the one used for main means of travel to work with some changes to suit travel to education.

Online submission note: [see Stats NZ 2018 Census Q 19 image on page 6 of attached PDF version of this ATDAN submission]
(Stats NZ, 2018b)

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a) in the lead up to its March 2018 Census, testing found that the terms used in the travel to education question were generally understood. Those who were distance learning were unsure about how to answer the question. This was remedied by moving the 'study from home' response to the top of the list.

Non-response in the NZ Census Test (April 2017) for means of travel to education was very low. The number of 'other' responses was quite low, suggesting that the list of categories covered the majority of travel options used.

Footnotes:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Stats NZ. (2018b). New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The existing Australian Census already asks 'How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 9 August 2016?'

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to method of travel to education would likely be similar to the method of travel to work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide detailed explanations. Also, the revised MTEP question would only be asked where there is a person attending school or any other education institution.

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a), non-response in their 2018 NZ Census Test (April 2017) for means of travel to education was very low.

Footnote:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ:
<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The collection of data on method of travel to education will require just one

question.

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to method of travel to education would likely be similar to the method of travel to work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide a lengthy instruction or explanation, and to be able to answer quickly. The proposed question will not use much survey form real estate either.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on Method of Travel to Education in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based education transport and general transport planning and modelling, and policy development.

Some ATDAN members (STAs from New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland) are open to the possibility of alternating this topic with the number of vehicles garaged topic, VEHD (2016 Census Question 54) every second Census (10-yearly cycle) if form space or respondent burden is an issue. However, some ATDAN members (Western Australia STAs and BITRE) require VEHD to remain in every Census (particularly 2021), if inclusion of a new topic leads to exclusion of existing transport related variables.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While some STAs have previously collected data on journeys to education as part of household travel surveys, data collected from these surveys does not cover all education institutions. Also, household travel surveys target a small (for example, less than 1%) sample of the population by place of residence which is not at the level of spatial detail as the Census would be able to provide.

There is no other alternative source of the required information.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

STA first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

Inclusion of a question to determine Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) would enable more accurate and efficient - that is, direct collection rather than estimation – data collection for mode used for the 35% of peak time period journeys that are completed for education purposes.

A mock 2021 Census Question is presented as part of this submission.

Online submission note: [see images of mock 2021 question on page 12 of

attached PDF version of this ATDAN submission]

STA second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Alternate between new question 'Method of Travel to Education' and existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable to some ATDAN members (STAs from New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland) if existing topic "Number of Motor Vehicles" (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD) had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education. However, some ATDAN members (Western Australia STAs and BITRE) require VEHD to remain in every Census (particularly 2021), if inclusion of a new topic leads to exclusion of existing transport related variables.

The proposed Census content changes are supported by all ATDAN members.

Support has also been confirmed from:

- The Australian Department of Education and Training - The department is supportive of the ATDAN proposal and may be able to help with construction of the questions involved, especially around institution locations.
- The Department of Education, Western Australia – inclusion of the proposed "Journey to Education " data question will:
 - o Enable additional analysis of resident/parental behaviour in the important work of developing and reviewing school local-intake areas which form the basis for school enrolment eligibility at public schools, particularly where distances are an issue in determining boundaries in urban areas where transport is generally by private vehicle, foot or bicycle having this data will be highly valuable.
 - o Assist in ensuring safe and practical traffic management planning as part of developing new schools and managing existing schools. Such transportation data will better inform designers and planners of the potential density and type of vehicular traffic expected in and around a school.
- The Department of Education, Queensland – supports the proposal, conditional on all existing data outputs for education-related questions and jurisdictional access to the data required for planning and reporting will remain.
- Western Australian Local Government Association – inclusion of the Journey to Education data into the Census could provide additional tangible data to be used by the WA Local Government Sector. The uses are listed as the 4 sub-dot

points in Assessment Criteria 1 above.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 353939064

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Inter-jurisdictional group comprising officials from Commonwealth, state and territory transport and infrastructure agencies.

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- National Transport Commission
- Transport for NSW
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria
- Transport for Victoria
- Department of Transport, Western Australia
- Department of Main Roads, Western Australia
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, South Australia
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory

- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- Australian Local Government Association

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Retention of Motor Vehicles garaged Topic

It is recommended to keep existing topic “Number of Motor Vehicles” (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD). It is suggested that the question be retained, preferably on a 5-yearly Census cycle. A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable to some State Transport Authorities (STAs) if it had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) to be used in conjunction with potential modification of another topic to derive Place of Education (POEP).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☐ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒ Mode of travel to work

☒ Name and address of workplace attended

☐ Number of motor vehicles

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed on the Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) at a dwelling as part of information available for transport infrastructure, service and resource planning and investment.

Understanding how the built environment and demographic factors relate to and can influence vehicle ownership and dependency helps inform planning and investment decision making. Also, the presence or absence of motor vehicles at dwellings is critical information when assessing unmet transport need. The Census provides the links between dwelling vehicle availability with other socio-economic characteristics included in the Census.

The Census data on number of motor vehicles at a dwelling is used as an input to development of most, if not all, strategic transport models developed and used by State Transport Authorities and a number of local governments. In particular this data is an important input to development and calibration of household vehicle availability/ ownership sub-models which in turn provide part of the input to mode choice sub-models. Any loss of this data will reduce accuracy of and confidence in strategic transport models and make the job of planning transport infrastructure and services by all tiers of government, to address congestion and travel demand and efficiency issues, more difficult.

Wide deployment of fully automated vehicles may be 10 years or so off however, the emergence of automated vehicles and on demand transport may affect VEHD and justify the need to continue collecting VEHD data on a 5-yearly Census cycle.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census data on number of motor vehicles at a dwelling is used as an input to development of most, if not all, strategic transport models developed and used by State Transport Authorities and a number of local governments. In particular this data is an important input to development and calibration of household vehicle availability/ownership sub-models which in turn provide part of the input to mode choice sub-models. Any loss of this data will reduce accuracy of and confidence in strategic transport models and make the job of planning transport infrastructure and services by all tiers of government, to

address congestion and travel demand and efficiency issues, more difficult.

Household travel surveys conducted by STAs usually collect data on number of motor vehicles linked to other demographic characteristics. However, data collected from these are not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

The data requirements for VEHD could not be met by data from the Motor Vehicle Census alone as it is not available at a sufficiently fine level of spatial detail (i.e. SA1).

Using administrative STA motor vehicle registration data was also explored however the data is not linked to demographic characteristics. This linkage is needed for understanding behaviour patterns in strategic transport models and strategic policy analysis on automated and on demand service changes to vehicle ownership across the population. The data also has potentially significant limitations in accuracy of address information for example where postal addresses are provided.

More spatially detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. These models are applied to small area demographic projections to estimate future travel demand and travel patterns.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is an existing topic that has a simple question that is easily understood, uses a small amount of survey form real estate and quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This is an existing topic that respondents have been willing and able to answer.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This is an existing topic that requires just one question, simply processed and doesn't require any change to instructions or explanations.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on the topic in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based transport planning and modelling, and policy development.

Some ATDAN members (STAs in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland) are open to the possibility of alternating the Method of Travel to Education and Number of Motor Vehicles topics every second Census (10-yearly cycle) if form space or respondent burden is an issue. However, some ATDAN members (Western Australia STAs and BITRE) require VEHD to remain in every Census (particularly 2021), if inclusion of a new topic leads to exclusion of existing transport related variables.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Household travel surveys conducted by STAs usually collect data on number of motor vehicles linked to other demographic characteristics. However, data collected from these are not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

The data requirements for VEHD could not be met by data from the Motor Vehicle Census alone as it is not available at a sufficiently fine level of spatial detail (i.e. SA1).

The number of vehicles by dwelling could potentially be derived from vehicle registrations data. However, by itself, a shortcoming of using this alternative source is that it would be missing socio-economic characteristics of the dwelling occupants that would be required for some transport planning purposes.

A possible alternative approach to developing Census data on Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) at a dwelling may be for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to receive a snapshot of vehicle registration data from each State representative of the vehicles on register at Census time. Ideally the data would include vehicle registration address and additional information to assist in identifying residential and/or garaging addresses. The ABS could then link the vehicle address information to Census night dwelling address data from Census Question 1 "What is the address of this dwelling?"

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

STA first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

It is proposed to keep existing topic “Number of Motor Vehicles” (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD), preferably on a 5-yearly Census cycle.

STA second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from ‘Type of Educational Institution Attending’ to ‘Place of Education’
- Alternate between new question ‘Method of Travel to Education’ and existing Question 54 ‘Number of Motor Vehicles’

A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable to some ATDAN members (STAs from New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland) if existing topic “Number of Motor Vehicles” (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD) had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education. However, some ATDAN members (Western Australia STAs and BITRE) require VEHD to remain in every Census (particularly 2021), if inclusion of a new topic leads to exclusion of existing transport related variables.

The proposed Census content changes are supported by all ATDAN members.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 221756620

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Manningham Council's submission focuses on the transport and travel section of the Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Manningham Council supports inclusion of topics that have been raised in previous stakeholder consultation, such as ride share and car share. With ride share services becoming increasingly popular, it could be considered its own mode.

'Method of travel to work' could be expanded to include 'Method of travel to education', with ride sharing incorporated as an option for selection in both topics.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

In the 'Method of travel to work' topic, inclusion of a option to select how long a journey takes will demonstrate the areas where people are required to travel some distance to access employment.

In the 'How many registered motor vehicles owned or used' topic, the addition of an option to select a car sharing service will help to demonstrate specific areas where people are opting not to own a vehicle/s.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Updating the Method of travel to work' and 'How many registered motor vehicles owned or used' topics to incorporate reference to ride sharing as an option should be a simple exercise, with the majority of respondents being aware of car sharing options, such as Uber.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The minor amendments recommended through this submission to the transport topics in the Census are not offensive or controversial and respondents are likely to answer accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The suggested changes to the 'Method of travel to work' and 'How many registered motor vehicles owned or used' topics are not onerous and should not require additional resources or multiple choice options.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Ride sharing is likely to become more popular and more widely used in the

future, so will remain a very relevant topic.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Council is not aware of other data that is currently available on this topic, combined with travel to work or travel to education topics.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 221629621

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Belmont

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Additional info to collect in Census

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☒ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☒ Proficiency in spoken English
- ☒ Ancestry
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Visa category

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It would be great to learn about the visa categories that people have used to enter Australia if they are from a migrant background. The rationale for this is because visas often shape migrants participation rates in the community and can impact things such as: access to supports and services and job applications as well. This is important in terms of lifestyle considerations for multicultural communities.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 134298775

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Belmont

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Mental Health

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

A question should be included such as “Do you have a diagnosed mental health condition?” If data was collected on mental health, it would help service providers and governments plan for facilities, services and support.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1072318372

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Belmont

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Profile of online habits

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Profile of online habits

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for a range of questions on the topic of individual's online behaviours. These include:

How many mobile phones/smart phones are actively used in your residence
On average, how much time is spent on the internet by all persons in your residence.

How old were children in your residence when they started using smart phones

What is your communications preference – digital or hard copy

Does your residence have an NBN connection or a mobile data point

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is a need for a range of questions on the topic of individual's online behaviours. These include:

How many mobile phones/smart phones are actively used in your residence
On average, how much time is spent on the internet by all persons in your residence.

How old were children in your residence when they started using smart phones

What is your communications preference – digital or hard copy

Does your residence have an NBN connection or a mobile data point



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 566281076

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Darebin City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

City of Darebin is located in the inner north of Melbourne, Victoria with a diverse population of 158,553 residents. We provide services to our Indigenous population and we would like to see the ABS better engage with these groups so as to ensure better data integrity.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

In terms of planning and effective response to local needs, population data of particular interest at the local level includes improved data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

In the spirit of self-determination, Council considers that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations are best-placed to provide advice and guidance on how to improve collection rates and we encourage the ABS to partner with these organisations.

Council also encourages the ABS to partner with social welfare organisations specialised in homelessness (e.g. ACOSS/VCOSS, Jesuit Social Services, Brotherhood of St-Laurence, Tenants' Union, etc.) to consider the best ways to gather data on homelessness and housing stress and increase response rates.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Indigenous Australians are across Australia and data is needed for small population groups, particularly in an inner-city local government context where our Aboriginal population is relatively small, and yet we need to understand more information about them in order to provide culturally sensitive services.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The questions around Indigenous status are appropriate; our recommendation is that the ABS partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and follow their advice and guidance on how to improve Census data collection rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Most, if not all, Australians are in favour of greater reconciliation efforts - and considering that Indigenous Australians were not included in the census until relatively recently, it is important that greater engagement efforts are made to include them.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As the question already exists in the Census form, there would be no further difficulties in coding/processing this information.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Absolutely - much more work on reconciliation and 'closing the gap' is needed and the data helps.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census is the main body of work that allows us to understand the circumstances of our Indigenous population.

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Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 797999619

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Science & Technology Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is the peak representative body for more than 70,000+ scientists and technologists in Australia through our member organisations, including associations and societies, research institutes, and research strategy bodies such as councils of deans.

One of our goals is to ensure a strong and stable workforce now and in the future. With the changing nature of the Australian economy it is important to ensure that the future workforce is provided with the skills they need. It is also essential to provide information regarding the capacity of the Australian workforce to retrain in new areas of work as the digital economy takes shape.

The changing nature of the Australian workforce will require an adaptable and flexible workforce, with people willing to retrain for new and different careers. The proposed questions will provide a better national understanding for how successful the education and training system is at providing broad skills to Australians.

STA Recommends the following questions are included in the census:

Are the skills from highest qualification achieved by the person used in their primary occupation?

What is the highest qualification achieved by the person in science, technology, engineering or maths?

Has the person undergone any formal professional development of career retraining in the last five years?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☐ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☐ Highest non-school qualification
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Ensuring a workforce is being given the opportunities to retrain and providing the future workforce with the skills needed to be adaptable and flexible is a national priority. Every sector of the economy will be affected by a changing skills landscape and the growth of the digital economy, and data must be collected regarding the workforce's readiness and preparation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is essential to know how the current workforce is keeping up with the requirements to retrain, and if formal professional development offered by employers is being utilised by the Australian workforce.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Its also important to note that these questions can be efficiently collected via the Census, as they do not differ in nature from those already asked in the education and training section.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Its also important to note that these questions can be efficiently collected via the Census, as they do not differ in nature from those already asked in the education and training section.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The data will be valuable in the long-term as there is every expectation the digital disruption of the workforce is likely to continue, and disruptions of a similar nature should be expected for many generations to come.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Other data sources or solutions that could provide information on this are not easily gathered and are typically skewed. The Census is the only forum in which a comprehensive data set of training can be gathered for the workforce as a whole.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1026336027

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Darebin City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

That the ABS partner with social welfare organisations specialised in homelessness and follow their advice and guidance on how to improve Census data collection rates for homeless people and people living in housing stress.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- ☒ Structure and types of dwellings
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☒ Housing costs
- ☒ Number of bedrooms
- ☒ Internet access
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

We estimate that 500 people a night in our city are homeless but we have no concrete, or time-series data. Many people are in dire circumstances where they are unable to access the most basic of needs - shelter - and we need more data to understand how we can support this group of people.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

All levels of government would benefit from better understanding the circumstances of homeless people and those in housing stress.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It will be challenging to collect data on people who do not have a household or fixed address to mail the Census form out too, but it is not impossible - our recommendation is that the ABS partner with social welfare organisations specialised in homelessness and follow their advice and guidance on how to improve Census data collection rates for homeless people and people living in housing stress.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is unlikely to be offensive - the main challenge is in data collection

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

While it might be impractical to field homeless people directly, there are many advocacy organisations that work with homeless people and those in housing stress. Consultation with these agencies should shed some light on how best to capture numbers on these vulnerable groups of people.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

A rich country such as ours should not have any homeless people but unless we know how many there are, accurately, we cannot measure our efforts to understand and act on this issue. Hypothetically, a time series of data could

help us measure success in our programs.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data on homelessness is extremely difficult to verify using current methods. Only the ABS, as the main body on statistical information in this country will have the resources to provide accurate data on this subject at a local level that can be used by local governments and other agencies.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 903652399

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Science & Technology Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is the peak representative body for more than 70,000+ scientists and technologists in Australia through our member organisations, including associations and societies, research institutes, and research strategy bodies such as councils of deans.

One of our goals is to ensure a strong and stable workforce now and in the future. With the changing nature of the Australian economy it is important to ensure that the future workforce is provided with the skills they need. It is also essential to provide information regarding the capacity of the Australian workforce to retrain in new areas of work as the digital economy takes shape.

STA recommends the following questions be included within the 2021 Census:
How many hours of unpaid overtime did the person undertake last week for all jobs?

How many hours of unpaid (volunteer) work did the person undertake for organisations by which they are not employed?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Income

☐

- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☐ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☒ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This data can be used to better understand the effects of more flexible working conditions as well as the appropriateness of the Australian working week. It can also capture the contributions Australians are making to the community and charity sectors.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is expected that this question will not prove problematic to households completing the Census as it is comparable current questions within the 2016 Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is expected that this question will not prove problematic to households completing the Census as it is comparable current questions within the 2016 Census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is expected that this question will not prove problematic to households completing the Census as it is comparable current questions within the 2016 Census.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Other organisations have gathered subsets of the information that would be provided in a Census-wide version of this question. Due to the varying nature of employment sectors however, there is not a clear and overarching set of data that can be used to assess or benchmark the overall prevalence of free labour that is occurring within the economy.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 960624883

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Darebin City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Having up to date and meaningful data is critical for understanding the experiences of people with disabilities as well as informing policy development, service planning, and the development of outcome measures for the National Disability Strategy.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

We recommend that questions based on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability, considered best practice internationally for identifying disabled people in population censuses, and conducted as a Supplementary Disability Survey in 2016, be included in the Australian census.

We recognise that these questions do not provide a comprehensive measure of disability, partly because they do not collect information about people with intellectual or psychological functioning difficulties, or young children; however it will provide greater comparison with international data sets, and allow for greater intersectionality of data to explore factors contributing to outcomes. The Census Questions on Disability Endorsed by the Washington Group are as follows:

Introductory phrase:

The next questions ask about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a health problem:

Core Questions:

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 - a. No - no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
 - a. No- no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
 - a. No- no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
 - a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all

Additional Questions:

5. Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
 - a. No – no difficulty

- b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all
6. Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?
- a. No – no difficulty
 - b. Yes – some difficulty
 - c. Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - d. Cannot do at all

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Disability affects everyone at some point in their lives and is of national importance.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The challenge will be in scoping the definition of 'disability' so that is more accurately answered.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Some groups may not consider their condition to be a 'disability' and may not respond to a question that is posed as such - e.g. people who are deaf. Therefore, work should be done to be as inclusive to people who have diverse circumstances that may not necessarily make them less independent.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic on need for assistance with core activities can be expanded to include a broader range of disability categories.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As mentioned previously - disability will affect everyone at some point in their lives- whether they develop a disability, care for a person with a disability or otherwise know someone with a disability. Having richer data sets can help us better prepare for our ageing population as well as providing better services to people with disabilities - such as through the NDIS.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We collect self-identified disability data at the City of Darebin through a Household Survey using a sample of 1000 households to get an understanding of a variety of characteristics and circumstances of our population. However, this data has limited use due to the limited scope of questions asked.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 591425877

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)
- Queensland Department of Education

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Modification to 2016 Census Question 25 "What type of educational institution

is the person attending?”

This relates to a change to an existing topic.

A modification is recommended to 2016 Census Question 25 “What type of educational institution is the person attending”. It is recommended it be modified to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability to be used with a potential new question on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Attendance at an educational institution

☒ Engagement in employment, education and training

☒ Highest year of schooling

☒ Highest non-school qualification

☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Location of Place of Education attended

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reasons for our support for the modification of the question on type of education institution attending to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town are detailed below.

- Data is needed on the Place of Education attended to improve information available for school and general transport, and education infrastructure, service and resource planning and investment.
- Education trips are a major contributor to activity on the transport network. Journey to Education (JtE) travel often clashes with journey to work travel, particularly in the morning accounting for approximately 35 percent of trips (similar to journey to work as a percentage of peak journeys) in major urban regions, but the spatial distribution of many of these journeys is not well understood. JtE data would be useful to understand the contribution of the education trips to peak travel at the local level, so Census data would provide finer grain accuracy.
- In order to ensure transport planning, infrastructure investment and operational refinements are made with an appropriate evidence-base, more detailed spatial information in regards to journeys to education, to complement journey to work data, is required.
- Place of education information coupled with mode used for journey to education could be used to inform planning and evaluate the efficacy of infrastructure investments, operational changes (such as the inclusion of new bus services) and travel behaviour change programs.
- Such data is required as an input, calibration and/or validation variable for strategic transport models that cover South East Queensland and most major Queensland regional centres. Strategic transport models include a number of trip purposes relating to education for example: (1) primary school education, (2) secondary school education, and (3) tertiary education. There is currently a lack of comprehensive information to calibrate and validate their distribution models.
- It is understood that other Australian, state and local transport and planning authorities would see similar benefits from the inclusion of a question relating to place of education meaning inclusion of this question in future censuses would be of national benefit. For more than 10 years, TMR and other State Transport Authorities (STAs) have advocated for Census content change to collect data relating to Journey to Education.
- Spatial information by Place of Education would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve education infrastructure and service planning and investment. The current level of detail from the 2016 Census only provides information about students at their place of residence but planning effort and investment targeting could be improved if the education facility location dimension were added. This would potentially improve school funding allocation models used by government which currently use Socio Economic Status (SES) scores generated using Census data on all residents in an SA1.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While TMR has previously collected data on journeys to education as part of a household travel survey, data collected from such surveys are based on a small sample of population and only in some parts of the state, and is thus not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

Household travel surveys collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for models generally representing average regional behaviour.

More spatially detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. Inputs to such models and analyses couple residential (home) and daytime (for example, place of work or education) location of the population including students with other demographic characteristics in the Census to derive models that replicate travel patterns of the current population. These models are then applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Similarly, for education planning spatial information by Place of Education combined with other characteristics from the Census would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve education infrastructure and service planning and investment. The current level of detail from the 2016 Census only provides information about students at their place of residence but planning effort and investment targeting could be improved if the education facility location dimension were added. This would potentially improve school funding allocation models used by government which currently use Socio Economic Status (SES) scores generated using Census data on all residents in an SA1.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a) in the lead up to its March 2018 Census, the final 2018 NZ Census educational address question was very simple and collected information on:

- Name of pre-school, school or other place of education
- Campus and/or suburb
- City, town or district

Online submission note: [see Stats NZ 2018 Census Q 20 image on page 6 of attached PDF version of this submission]
(Stats NZ, 2018b)

Testing found that respondents were very likely to understand the educational institution question, know the answer to such questions and to be able to answer quickly.

Non-response in the NZ Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, and for city was reasonably low. It should be possible to determine the geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.

Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

Footnotes:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Stats NZ. (2018b). New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. Individual form Tuesday 6 March 2018. Retrieved from Stats NZ Store House: <https://cdm20045.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll2/id/713/rec/3>

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The existing Australian Census question already asks 'What type of educational institution is the person attending?' The possible responses include Preschool, Infants/Primary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Secondary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Tertiary Institution (TAFE, University or higher, Other). There is a trend towards schools increasing the diversity of year levels that they offer, that is, a trend toward schools providing for both primary and secondary year levels. The proposed revised question may be easier and more acceptable for respondents to answer correctly.

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to place of education would likely be similar to the place of work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide detailed explanations.

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a):

- Help text for educational institution address: The guide notes explain that this information is being collected to help measure traffic flows and plan transport services.
- Non-response in the Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, for city was reasonably low. However, it should be possible to determine the geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.
- Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

TMR suggestion for Australian Census help text for educational institution address: This information is being collected for planning of education services, school transport services and transport infrastructure and services.

Footnote:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The collection of data on education institution name and location will require just one question. The topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation as respondents are very likely to know the answer to a question on education institution name and location, and to be able to answer quickly. The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification of Question 25 would be similar to that currently used.

The name and location of the education institution attended could be coded using a database compiled from Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and/or the Australian Department of Education and Training (for government and non-government P-12 schools), (for govt and non-govt P-12 schools), National Register for Training in Australia (for RTOs), Universities Australia, TAFEQld, TAFENSW and so on. The coding database could possibly contain as a minimum: institution name, campus/suburb, city, state, type (government, Catholic, Other non-government), year level (Preschool, P-12, TAFE, Uni), latitude and longitude. It could probably have full street address details as well. The database may be able to use the same structure as the database ABS uses for Workplace Address coding with additional field/s for institution type coding.

Places of education would have higher locational determinability than places of work.

It is envisaged it would add marginal cost to processing as it would use the same coding capability and databases ABS uses for workplace address coding with additional information on institution type.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on the topic in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based transport modelling, planning and policy development.

There will also potentially be continuing need for the data to support requirements of education funding allocation models and for education infrastructure planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While the department has previously collected data on journeys to education as part of the household travel survey, data collected from this survey does not cover all education institutions. The household travel survey targets a less than 1% sample of the population by place of residence and is not at the level of spatial detail as the Census would be able to provide, and never covers the whole of the State.

It is possible to use state education agency information only for government school enrolments (and student residences at SA1 level) but non-government schools are a significant data gap and growing. There has been an increase in the share of students attending non-government schools. In Queensland, for

example, between 2006 and 2016, this increased from 38.5% to 39.3% for secondary; 28.7% to 28.9% for primary and from 32.7% to 33.3% for all schools.

It is understood that the Australian Department of Education and Training (DET) has P-12 student residential address or location data for each school and that information is used by the Australian Government to decide how much money each school should get. From the DET website - "A school's SES score is calculated using student residential addresses and a socio-economic index based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing (Census) data." (Department of Education and Training, 2018)

If the Australian Government were to make place of residence (PoR) by place of education (PoE) data for P-12 education institutions it may provide some of the required information albeit only for primary, secondary and combination schools. What would still be missing is PoR by PoE for post-secondary students. Another shortcoming of the DET data is that it would not provide nor be able to be linked to information on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP). Nor would it be able to be directly or accurately linked to household level social-economic data from the Census. This is alluded to in a late 2017 research paper on the funding arrangements methodology for DET (Department of Education and Training, 2017).

Footnotes:

Department of Education and Training. (2017). The Socio-Economic Status (SES) score methodology used in recurrent school funding arrangements. Retrieved from Department of Education and Training: https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/forinfo-vu-ses_score_research_paper-webaccessible_1.pdf

Department of Education and Training. (2018). What is the Schooling Resource Standard and how does it work? Retrieved from Department of Education and Training: <https://www.education.gov.au/what-schooling-resource-standard-and-how-does-it-work>

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

TMR first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

TMR second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Alternate between new question 'Method of Travel to Education' and existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

Modifying 2016 Census Question 25 "What type of educational institution is the person attending" to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town should occur no matter what the priorities might be for any other alterations to content.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability.

This would finally provide both the Transport and Education portfolios in all levels of government with comprehensive student catchment information that could be more accurately linked with Census socio-economic data for education related funding allocation, and planning and provision of transport and education infrastructure and services.

The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification would be similar to that currently used for Question 25. Online submission note: [see images of sample 2016 and mock 2021 questions on page 12 of attached PDF version of this TMR submission]

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has collaborated on and endorses the 2021 Census Topic Review submission on this topic from ATDAN.

Support for the TMR submission has also been confirmed from:

- The Queensland Department of Education – supports the TMR proposed amendment to Question 25 and the response fields for the question and the addition of an education-related travel question. The support is on condition that all existing data outputs for education-related questions remain, allowing continued access to existing data required for planning and reporting.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 622095842

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)
- Queensland Department of Education

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Modification to 2016 Census Question 25 "What type of educational institution

is the person attending?”

This relates to a change to an existing topic.

A modification is recommended to 2016 Census Question 25 “What type of educational institution is the person attending”. It is recommended it be modified to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability to be used with a potential new question on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Mode of travel to work

☐ Name and address of workplace attended

☐ Number of motor vehicles

☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Attendance at an education institution, Location of place of education attended

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reasons for our support for the modification of the question on type of education institution attending to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town are detailed below.

- Data is needed on the Place of Education attended to improve information available for school and general transport, and education infrastructure, service

and resource planning and investment.

- Education trips are a major contributor to activity on the transport network. Journey to Education (JtE) travel often clashes with journey to work travel, particularly in the morning accounting for approximately 35 percent of trips (similar to journey to work as a percentage of peak journeys) in major urban regions, but the spatial distribution of many of these journeys is not well understood. JtE data would be useful to understand the contribution of the education trips to peak travel at the local level, so Census data would provide finer grain accuracy.
- In order to ensure transport planning, infrastructure investment and operational refinements are made with an appropriate evidence-base, more detailed spatial information in regards to journeys to education, to complement journey to work data, is required.
- Place of education information coupled with mode used for journey to education could be used to inform planning and evaluate the efficacy of infrastructure investments, operational changes (such as the inclusion of new bus services) and travel behaviour change programs.
- Such data is required as an input, calibration and/or validation variable for strategic transport models that cover South East Queensland and most major Queensland regional centres. Strategic transport models include a number of trip purposes relating to education for example: (1) primary school education, (2) secondary school education, and (3) tertiary education. There is currently a lack of comprehensive information to calibrate and validate their distribution models.
- It is understood that other Australian, state and local transport and planning authorities would see similar benefits from the inclusion of a question relating to place of education meaning inclusion of this question in future censuses would be of national benefit. For more than 10 years, TMR and other State Transport Authorities (STAs) have advocated for Census content change to collect data relating to Journey to Education.
- Spatial information by Place of Education would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve education infrastructure and service planning and investment. The current level of detail from the 2016 Census only provides information about students at their place of residence but planning effort and investment targeting could be improved if the education facility location dimension were added. This would potentially improve school funding allocation models used by government which currently use Socio Economic Status (SES) scores generated using Census data on all residents in an SA1.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While TMR has previously collected data on journeys to education as part of a household travel survey, data collected from such surveys are based on a small sample of population and only in some parts of the state, and is thus not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

Household travel surveys collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for models generally representing average regional behaviour.

More spatially detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. Inputs to such models and analyses couple residential (home) and daytime (for example, place of work or education) location of the population including students with other demographic characteristics in the Census to derive models that replicate travel patterns of the current population. These models are then applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Similarly, for education planning spatial information by Place of Education combined with other characteristics from the Census would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve education infrastructure and service planning and investment. The current level of detail from the 2016 Census only provides information about students at their place of residence but planning effort and investment targeting could be improved if the education facility location dimension were added. This would potentially improve school funding allocation models used by government which currently use Socio Economic Status (SES) scores generated using Census data on all residents in an SA1.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a) in the lead up to its March 2018 Census, the final 2018 NZ Census educational address question was very simple and collected information on:

- Name of pre-school, school or other place of education
- Campus and/or suburb
- City, town or district

Online submission note: [see Stats NZ 2018 Census Q 20 image on page 6 of attached PDF version of this submission]
(Stats NZ, 2018b)

Testing found that respondents were very likely to understand the educational institution question, know the answer to such questions and to be able to answer quickly.

Non-response in the NZ Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, and for city was reasonably low. It should be possible to determine the geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.

Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

Footnotes:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Stats NZ. (2018b). New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings.

Individual form Tuesday 6 March 2018. Retrieved from Stats NZ Store House: <https://cdm20045.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll2/id/713/rec/3>

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The existing Australian Census question already asks 'What type of educational institution is the person attending?' The possible responses include Preschool, Infants/Primary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Secondary school (Government, Catholic, Other non-government), Tertiary Institution (TAFE, University or higher, Other). There is a trend towards schools increasing the diversity of year levels that they offer, that is, a trend toward schools providing for both primary and secondary year levels. The proposed revised question may be easier and more acceptable for respondents to answer correctly.

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to place of education would likely be similar to the place of work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide detailed explanations.

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a):

- Help text for educational institution address: The guide notes explain that this information is being collected to help measure traffic flows and plan transport services.
- Non-response in the Census Test (April 2017) for educational institution name was very low, for city was reasonably low. However, it should be possible to determine the geographic location of most educational institutions with the suburb missing.
- Analysis indicated that this information can be successfully collected for pre-schoolers as well as for school and tertiary students.

TMR suggestion for Australian Census help text for educational institution address: This information is being collected for planning of education services, school transport services and transport infrastructure and services.

Footnote:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The collection of data on education institution name and location will require just one question. The topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation as respondents are very likely to know the answer to a question on education institution name and location, and to be able to answer quickly. The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification of Question 25 would be similar to that currently used.

The name and location of the education institution attended could be coded using a database compiled from Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and/or the Australian Department of Education and Training (for government and non-government P-12 schools), (for govt and non-govt P-12 schools), National Register for Training in Australia (for RTOs), Universities Australia, TAFEQld, TAFENSW and so on. The coding database could possibly contain as a minimum: institution name, campus/suburb, city, state, type (government, Catholic, Other non-government), year level (Preschool, P-12, TAFE, Uni), latitude and longitude. It could probably have full street address details as well. The database may be able to use the same structure as the database ABS uses for Workplace Address coding with additional field/s for institution type coding.

Places of education would have higher locational determinability than places of work.

It is envisaged it would add marginal cost to processing as it would use the same coding capability and databases ABS uses for workplace address coding with additional information on institution type.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on the topic in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based transport modelling, planning and policy development.

There will also potentially be continuing need for the data to support requirements of education funding allocation models and for education infrastructure planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While the department has previously collected data on journeys to education as part of the household travel survey, data collected from this survey does not cover all education institutions. The household travel survey targets a less than 1% sample of the population by place of residence and is not at the level of spatial detail as the Census would be able to provide, and never covers the whole of the State.

It is possible to use state education agency information only for government school enrolments (and student residences at SA1 level) but non-government schools are a significant data gap and growing. There has been an increase in the share of students attending non-government schools. In Queensland, for example, between 2006 and 2016, this increased from 38.5% to 39.3% for

secondary; 28.7% to 28.9% for primary and from 32.7% to 33.3% for all schools.

It is understood that the Australian Department of Education and Training (DET) has P-12 student residential address or location data for each school and that information is used by the Australian Government to decide how much money each school should get. From the DET website - "A school's SES score is calculated using student residential addresses and a socio-economic index based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing (Census) data." (Department of Education and Training, 2018)

If the Australian Government were to make place of residence (PoR) by place of education (PoE) data for P-12 education institutions it may provide some of the required information albeit only for primary, secondary and combination schools. What would still be missing is PoR by PoE for post-secondary students. Another shortcoming of the DET data is that it would not provide nor be able to be linked to information on Method of Travel to Education (MTEP). Nor would it be able to be directly or accurately linked to household level social-economic data from the Census. This is alluded to in a late 2017 research paper on the funding arrangements methodology for DET (Department of Education and Training, 2017).

Footnotes:

Department of Education and Training. (2017). The Socio-Economic Status (SES) score methodology used in recurrent school funding arrangements.

Retrieved from Department of Education and Training:

https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/forinfo-vu-ses_score_research_paper-webaccessible_1.pdf

Department of Education and Training. (2018). What is the Schooling Resource Standard and how does it work? Retrieved from Department of Education and Training: <https://www.education.gov.au/what-schooling-resource-standard-and-how-does-it-work>

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please

comment below.

Further comments

TMR first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

TMR second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Alternate between new question 'Method of Travel to Education' and existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

Modifying 2016 Census Question 25 "What type of educational institution is the person attending" to ask respondents for the name of the pre-school, school or other place of education including its campus and/or suburb, city/town should occur no matter what the priorities might be for any other alterations to content.

This modification, used in conjunction with an education place type and address database compiled from official sources, would potentially allow more accurate coding of TYPP (Type of Educational Institution Attending). It would also allow introduction of a new spatial classification for Place of Education (POEP) with high locational determinability.

This would finally provide both the Transport and Education portfolios in all levels of government with comprehensive student catchment information that could be more accurately linked with Census socio-economic data for education related funding allocation, and planning and provision of transport and education infrastructure and services.

The amount of space required on the Census form for this modification would be similar to that currently used for Question 25. Online submission note: [see images of sample 2016 and mock 2021 questions on page 12 of attached PDF version of this TMR submission]

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has collaborated on and endorses the 2021 Census Topic Review submission on this topic from ATDAN.

Support for the TMR submission has also been confirmed from:

- The Queensland Department of Education – supports the TMR proposed amendment to Question 25 and the response fields for the question and the addition of an education-related travel question. The support is on condition that all existing data outputs for education-related questions remain, allowing continued access to existing data required for planning and reporting.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 978258175

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)
- Queensland Department of Education

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

New topic "Method of travel to education"

A new topic is recommended on “Method of travel to educational institution”. It is recommended that the question design be based on 2016 Census Question 45 method of travel to work but with modifications to 2 mark boxes to make the topic education rather than work specific.

This topic would also allow introduction of a new classification for Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) that could be used with a potential modification of another topic to derive Place of Education (POEP) to allow output of Journey to Education travel patterns from Census data.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒

Mode of travel to work

☒

Name and address of workplace attended

☒

Number of motor vehicles

☐

Other/unknown

If other please specify

Mode of travel to education

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reasons for our support for the introduction of the question on method of travel to education are detailed below.

- Data on the Method of travel to education is essential to improve information available for school transport and general transport infrastructure and services planning and investment, and transport policy development.

- Education trips are a major contributor to activity on the transport network. Education travel often coincides with journey to work travel, particularly in the morning peak accounting for approximately 35 percent of trips (similar to journey to work as a percentage of peak journeys) in major urban regions, but the method of travel and spatial distribution of many of these journeys is not well understood. Journey to Education (JtE) data would be useful to understand the contribution of the education trips to peak travel at the local level. Census

data would provide finer grain accuracy.

- Method of Travel to Education linked to spatial information by Place of Education and Place of Residence and other Census data would enable more detailed analysis of socio-economic characteristics of school communities and catchments to improve both transport and education infrastructure and service planning and investment.
- In order to ensure transport planning, infrastructure investment and operational refinements are made with an appropriate evidence-base, more detailed mode use information in regards to journeys to education, to complement journey to work data, is required.
- Such data is required as an input, calibration and/or validation variable for strategic transport models that cover South East Queensland and most major Queensland regional centres. Strategic transport models include a number of trip purposes relating to education for example: (1) primary school education, (2) secondary school education, and (3) tertiary education. There is currently a lack of comprehensive information to calibrate and validate their distribution models.
- Mode used for journey to education coupled with Place of Education information could be used to inform planning and evaluate the efficacy of infrastructure investments, operational changes (such as the inclusion of new bus services) and travel behaviour change programs.
- It is understood that other Australian, state and local transport and planning authorities would see similar benefits from the inclusion of a question relating to method of travel to education meaning inclusion of this question in future censuses would be of national benefit. For more than 10 years, TMR and other State Transport Authorities (STAs) have advocated for Census content change to collect data relating to Journey to Education.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While TMR has previously collected data on journeys to education as part of a household travel survey, data collected from such surveys are based on a small sample of population and only in some parts of the state, and is thus not

at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

Household travel surveys collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for models generally representing average regional behaviour.

More detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. Inputs to such models and analyses couple method of travel with residential (home) and daytime (for example, place of work or education) location of the population including students with other demographic characteristics in the Census to derive models that replicate travel patterns of the current population. These models are then applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The final 2018 NZ Census question on means of travel to education was based on the one used for main means of travel to work with some changes to suit travel to education.

Online submission note: [see Stats NZ 2018 Census Q 19 image on page 6 of attached PDF version of this submission]
(Stats NZ, 2018b)

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a) in the lead up to its March 2018 Census, testing found that the terms used in the travel to education question were generally understood. Those who were distance learning were unsure about how to answer the question. This was remedied by moving the 'study from home' response to the top of the list.

Non-response in the NZ Census Test (April 2017) for means of travel to education was very low. The number of 'other' responses was quite low, suggesting that the list of categories covered the majority of travel options used.

Footnotes:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-design-of-forms>

Stats NZ. (2018b). New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. Individual form Tuesday 6 March 2018. Retrieved from Stats NZ Store House: <https://cdm20045.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll2/id/713/rec/3>

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The existing Australian Census question already asks 'How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 9 August 2016?'

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to method of travel to education would likely be similar to the method of travel work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide detailed explanations.

Based on experience of Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2018a), non-response in their 2018 NZ Census Test (April 2017) for means of travel to education was very low.

TMR suggestion for Australian Census help text for educational institution address: This information is being collected to estimate daytime populations and to plan education and general transport facilities and activities.

Footnote:

Stats NZ. (2018a). 2018 Census: Design of forms. Retrieved from Stats NZ:

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The existing Australian Census question already asks 'How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 9 August 2016?'

A question on the 2021 Census form relating to method of travel to education would likely be similar to the method of travel work question, meaning respondents would be familiar with the type of question asked and could easily respond without the need to provide a lengthy instruction or explanation, and to be able to answer quickly.

The collection of data on method of travel to education will require just one question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on Method of Travel to Education in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based education and general transport planning and modelling, and policy development.

However, TMR is open to the possibility of alternating this topic with the number of vehicles garaged topic, VEHD (2016 Census Question 54) every

second Census (10-yearly cycle) if form space or respondent burden is an issue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While the department has previously collected data on journeys to education as part of the household travel survey, data collected from this survey does not cover all education institutions. The household travel survey targets a less than 1% sample of the population by place of residence and is not at the level of spatial detail as the Census would be able to provide. There is no other alternative source of the required information.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

TMR first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Add new question 'Method of Travel to Education'
- Retain existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

TMR second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Alternate between new question 'Method of Travel to Education' and existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

Inclusion of a question to determine Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) would enable more accurate and efficient - that is, direct collection rather than estimation – data collection for mode used for the 35% of peak time period journeys that are completed for education purposes.

A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable to TMR if existing topic "Number of Motor Vehicles" (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD) had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education.

Online submission note: [see images of mock 2021 question on page 12 of attached PDF version of this submission]

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has collaborated on and endorses the 2021 Census Topic Review submission on this topic from ATDAN.

Support for the TMR submission has also been confirmed from:

- The Queensland Department of Education – supports the TMR proposed amendment to Question 25 and the response fields for the question and the addition of an education-related travel question. The support is on condition that all existing data outputs for education-related questions remain, allowing continued access to existing data required for planning and reporting.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 406171907

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Australian Transportation Data Action Network (ATDAN)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Retention of Motor Vehicles garaged Topic

It is recommended that the existing question on “Number of Motor Vehicles” at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD) be retained, preferably on a 5-yearly Census cycle. A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable if it had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) to be used in conjunction with potential modification of another topic to derive Place of Education (POEP).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is proposed to keep existing topic “Number of Motor Vehicles” (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD). It is suggested that the question be retained, preferably on a 5-yearly Census cycle. A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable if it had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) to be used in conjunction with potential modification of another topic to derive Place of Education (POEP).

Reasons for our support for retaining the question on number of motor vehicles are detailed below.

- Data is needed on the Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) at a dwelling as part of information available for transport infrastructure, service and resource planning and investment.
- Understanding how the built environment and demographic factors relate to and can influence vehicle ownership and dependency helps inform planning and investment decision making. The Census provides the links between dwelling vehicle availability with other socio-economic characteristics included in the Census.
- The Census data on number of motor vehicles at a dwelling is used as an

input to development of most, if not all, strategic transport models developed and used by TMR and a number of local governments. In particular this data is an important input to development and calibration of household vehicle availability/ownership sub-models which in turn provide part of the input to mode choice sub-models. Any loss of this data will reduce accuracy of and confidence in strategic transport models and make the job of planning transport infrastructure and services by all tiers of government, to address congestion and travel demand and efficiency issues, more difficult.

- Strategic transport modelling work benefits from the use of the Number of Motor Vehicles as an input, calibration and/or validation variable. VEHD is a critical input variable for modelling household travel demand and mode choice and is used for cross-validation of other variables by correlation. Any loss of this data will reduce accuracy of and confidence in strategic transport models and make the job of planning transport infrastructure and services by all tiers of government to address congestion and travel demand and efficiency issues more difficult.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census data on number of motor vehicles at a dwelling is used as an input to development of most, if not all, strategic transport models developed and used by TMR and a number of local governments. In particular this data is an important input to development and calibration of household vehicle availability/ownership sub-models which in turn provide part of the input to mode choice sub-models. Any loss of this data will reduce accuracy of and confidence in strategic transport models and make the job of planning transport infrastructure and services by all tiers of government, to address congestion and travel demand and efficiency issues, more difficult.

While the Department of Transport and Main Roads has previously collected data on number of motor vehicles linked to other demographic characteristics as part of a household travel survey, data collected from this survey was not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

Household travel surveys collect information from less than 1 percent of households and therefore only gather information that can be applied in analysis at an aggregate regional level or for models generally representing average regional behaviour.

It should also be noted that the data requirements for VEHD could not rely on data from the Motor Vehicle Census alone as it is not available at a sufficiently fine level of spatial detail (i.e. SA1).

Using administrative TMR motor vehicle registration data was also explored however the data is not linked to demographic characteristics. This linkage is needed for understanding behaviour patterns in strategic transport models and strategic policy analysis on automated and on demand service changes to vehicle ownership across the population. The data also has potentially significant limitations in accuracy of address information for example where postal addresses are provided.

More spatially detailed information is needed on which to develop, calibrate and validate more detailed transport analyses and models. These models are applied to small area projections of population, employment and enrolments to estimate growth in travel demand and changes in travel patterns into the future.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is an existing topic that has a simple question that is easily understood and quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This is an existing topic that respondents have been willing and able to answer.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This is an existing topic that requires just one question, simply processed and doesn't require any change to instructions or explanations.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be a continuing need for data on the topic in subsequent Censuses to assist in evidence based transport planning and modelling, and policy development.

However, TMR is open to the possibility of alternating this topic with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education (MTEP) every second Census (10-yearly cycle) if form space or respondent burden is an issue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Household travel surveys conducted by TMR usually collect data on number of motor vehicles linked to other demographic characteristics. However, data collected from these are not at the level of spatial detail that the Census would be able to provide.

The data requirements for VEHD could not rely on data from the Motor Vehicle Census alone as it is not available at a sufficiently fine level of spatial detail (i.e. SA1).

The number of vehicles by dwelling could potentially be derived from vehicle registrations data. However, by itself, a shortcoming of using this alternative source is that it would be missing socio-economic characteristics of the dwelling occupants that would be required for some transport planning purposes.

A possible alternative approach to developing Census data on Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) at a dwelling may be for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to receive a snapshot of vehicle registration data from each State representative of the vehicles on register at Census time. Ideally the data would include vehicle registration address and additional information to assist in identifying residential and/or garaging addresses. The ABS could then link the vehicle address information to Census night dwelling address data from Census Question 1 “What is the address of this dwelling?”

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

TMR first preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from ‘Type of Educational Institution Attending’ to ‘Place of Education’
- Add new question ‘Method of Travel to Education’
- Retain existing Question 54 ‘Number of Motor Vehicles’

TMR second preference for alterations to Census content is as follows:

- Modify Question 25 from 'Type of Educational Institution Attending' to 'Place of Education'
- Alternate between new question 'Method of Travel to Education' and existing Question 54 'Number of Motor Vehicles'

It is proposed to keep existing topic "Number of Motor Vehicles" (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD), preferably on a 5-yearly Census cycle.

A 10-yearly Census cycle would be acceptable to TMR if the existing topic "Number of Motor Vehicles" (2016 Census Question 54) at the dwelling on Census night (VEHD) had to be alternated with a proposed new question on mode or Method of Travel to Education to be used in conjunction with the potential modification of another topic to derive Place of Education (POEP).

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has collaborated on and endorses the 2021 Census Topic Review submission on this topic from ATDAN.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 211995478

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Additional areas of data that could be collected.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Communications / Infrastructure

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

I believe there should be data collected on the number of mobile phones that people own per person or even per household. This data could be used to better understand preferred forms of communication and how best to tailor

programs and policy towards the population. This could be expanded to ask whether people have a personal email address, and possibly even social media accounts. Being able to review this data both numerically, but importantly spatially, will also help local authorities to understand how to tailor their communications to their local community. It will also help to further identify areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Information about forms of communication would be useful for both geographical areas, as well as in combination with other datasets such as income, employment, country of birth etc.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes it could be easily communicated e.g. how many mobile phones are owned within your household?

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Generally speaking most people would be comfortable answering whether they have an email address and how many mobile phones they own within the household. One potential concern is that a high number of mobile phones compared to number of persons may raise the suspicion of authorities, however they could not be identified from the data.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The questions could be framed in a way that a purely numerical response would be required, and would only require one additional question per topic / form of communication. It wouldn't matter what type of mobile phone or email address they use, just whether they have one and how many they have.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes this data will certainly remain relevant for the foreseeable future, as emails have been in existing for several decades and are likely to continue. It would be useful to see how this has grown over time, and how our primary methods of communication are changing.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This data would be collected across a number of private organisations, however I am not aware of a single, central point to access number of mobile phones or email addresses.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This form of consultation is quite broad and difficult to adequately respond without some form of prompt. It would be useful at time of the 2021 Census (or just after) for people to have an opportunity to comment whilst it's fresh in their minds, or just after the data has been released when they have been actively using it.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 324146288

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The identification of the diversity of family structures, specifically the complex larger households, which house multiple families, and families who have shared custody children.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships
- ☒ Marital status
- ☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, planning and programming.

Data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed for small population groups

Data is need for small geographic areas

the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collect in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
respondent will easily know the answer
the question is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial
respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not require extensive processing

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic
the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 283759162

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Collection of all sources of income

Collection of data regarding tenure of employment

Collection of data regarding the amount of unpaid overtime

What are the successful pre employment pathways

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☐ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups
data is needed for small geographic areas
the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents
the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial
respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
are there other considerations for specific groups

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic
the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 27533553

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Education - fro planning - a need for all peoples qualifications held, not just highest achievement.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☐ Highest non-school qualification
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups
data is needed for small geographic areas
the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents
the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial
respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

the topic or question will not require extensive processing

the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census

the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation

the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 352351076

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

- identify people who have experienced homelessness, and or precarious housing, eg - couch surfing, boarding houses
future intentions of people - to rent/buy/investing in housing, up size & down sizing
Suitability of housing eg: multicultural and aboriginal people with very large families, multiple families, and extended family members etc:
Suitability of housing for people with disability

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☒ Location

☒ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☐ Structure and types of dwellings

☐ Homelessness

☒ Housing costs

☒ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups
data is needed for small geographic areas
the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents
the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial

- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

- the topic or question will not require extensive processing
- the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
- the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
- the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1062315166

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Information regarding how people access and use transport for every day activities will assist in planning.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Mode of travel to education, recreation,shopping

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
• data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups

- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents

- the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
- respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
- the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial

- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

- the topic or question will not require extensive processing
- the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
- the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
- the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 306443280

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The amount of people who use wheelchairs/mobility scooter/walking frames to remain active in their home, & community
people with a disability collecting the number of hours of paid work, sex, language spoken at home
Capturing the amount of people accessing the NDIS Scheme - and those deemed ineligible
Amount of people with a disability who do not require assistance with core activities.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☒ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Accessing the NDIS Scheme, collecting number of paid employment hours

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring

- data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups

- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents

- the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
- respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
- the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial

- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

- the topic or question will not require extensive processing

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 696509630

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Cultural diversity of family structures
Filtering of Cultural Origin
Visa Type

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☐ Country of birth of parents
- ☐ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☐ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☒ Proficiency in spoken English
- ☒ Ancestry
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring

- data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups

- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents

- the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
- respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
- the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial

- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

- the topic or question will not require extensive processing
- the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 678995717

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Ability to de aggregate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to local level, local government and suburbs etc:
What opportunities are limited due to access to , transport, health education etc

what employment pathways have arisen via volunteering, and educational type programs
the ability to identify different cultural groups through linking with their language, country and community.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring

- data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups

- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents

- the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
- respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
- the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial

- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 702334462

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Salisbury - South Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Understating how safe people feel in their community, homes or travelling etc.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Community Safety

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring

- data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups

- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial

- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately
- are there other considerations for specific groups?

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 178418291

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Health

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission seeks the collection of data on sex, gender and sexual orientation in the 2021 Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The collection of this data will be used to support policy-making and service planning that can meet the needs of people from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities. For example, the Aged Care Diversity Framework identifies the requirement to provide care that meets a person's individual diverse needs. To achieve this there is a need to collect LGBTI demographic data and LGBTI indicators within the Australian Census. Lack of data about LGBTI people puts this cohort of Australians at a significant disadvantage in terms of enabling policy makers and service delivery agencies to accurately predict where resources including healthcare and aged care targeting the LGBTI population may be required. Only the Census can provide the ability to identify small target populations for accurate information to inform government policy making and long-term planning, as no alternative source of information is currently available or likely to be available in the near future.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The collection of this data is required of the whole population to support meaningful analysis of data resulting from the collection of sex, gender and sexual orientation. Previous data collections, such as the ABS General Social Survey, have resulted in very low levels of reporting on LGBTI-related questions. To ensure the data is able to be used to support the development of policies and programs to support the LGBTI community this data will need to be robust and collected from the whole Australian population.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The collection of data on sex, gender and sexual orientation are suited to the self-reporting mode of data collection used in the Census. As with any new question, there may be some confusion from respondents who are not familiar with the LGBTI community however the question construction will mitigate this. Those who are cognisant of the importance of the issue and to whom the questions are particularly relevant will have no difficulties in providing answers.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic is considered to be acceptable to Census respondents. The collection of this data is recognised as important in the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender (Department of the Attorney General, 2013) which states:

“The Australian Government recognises that individuals may identify and be recognised within the community as a gender other than the sex they were assigned at birth or during infancy, or as a gender which is not exclusively male or female. This should be recognised and reflected in their personal records held by Australian Government departments and agencies. “

While it is arguable that the collection of data on sex, gender and sexual orientation may be seen by some as an invasion of privacy, the option for individual respondents to request an individual survey mitigates many of these concerns. It should also be noted that in the early days of capturing indicators around a person’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, similar concerns of appropriateness to be asked what was then deemed a personal issue were raised but subsequently resolved. The results from the 2017 postal survey on amending the Marriage Act to include same-sex marriage suggests that responding to these questions is no longer as stigmatised as in previous Census consultation periods.

Consultations with LGBTI stakeholders by the Department of Health indicate that as a group who have a history of being discriminated against, addressing the lack of data on basic information about who they and how they identify themselves is a core focus of LGBTI communities and they are likely to want to support mechanisms for increased collection of such information.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The limited number of responses to each of these questions ensures they are able to be collected efficiently. As the ABS has experience in collecting similar data the development of questions will not place a significant burden on the survey development process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As these data enable reporting on distinct population subgroups there is a continuing need for data on this topic.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census is the sole source of robust population-level data that can support the needs of the LGBTI community. Some Australian Government administrative data collections collect these data, however this data is only sourced from specific sub-groups of the population and is not able to be utilised effectively. Whilst the General Social Survey collects some data on LGBTI status, and the previous Census included data on same-sex partners, neither collection covers this topic adequately to support the needs of the LGBTI community.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 553347165

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Alexandrina Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Alexandrina Council welcomes the consideration of 'second residence/ownership of other dwelling' as part of the review for the 2021 Census. We anticipate this data will be invaluable for assisting Council to plan for coastal trends across a range of areas from social, environmental, economic and cultural. It will also assist in representing the true impacts of population in coastal areas during peak times for which areas like the Australian Government Financial Assistance Grants do not currently factor in. Census data can provide an evidence base that could built into grants formulas.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)



- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Name
- ☒ Date of birth or age
- ☒ Children ever born
- ☐ Other/don't know

If other please specify

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

By second residence or ownership of other dwelling, we refer to non-resident ratepayers who live at a primary place of residence counted by the Census, but who also own property (second, third or more dwellings) in our local government area and are not counted in our estimated resident population. As a popular coastal holiday destination, our population swells at seasonal times, for which we must provide infrastructure but for which we are not recognised in ABS population data. Also, as an LGA with a strong early retiree demographic who are highly mobile, it would assist us to be able to understand the impact of use of second residences.

We envisage that a useful result of a question, would be able to ask a supplementary question about what proportion of time is spent at a second home. We would like to be able to follow over time data that tells us the story of X% of residences are occupied Y% of the year – that is, a transition from principal residence outside the LGA to occupying a second home for some of the time within the LGA and that increasing over time until transition to it being a primary place of residence.

The data would be used in strategic and long-term planning as it is a requirement of the SA Local Government Act 1999 that trends in our community's nature and interests be identified and taken into consideration. Obviously, movements in people over time from a primary place of residence to a secondary place of residence will be very useful for a coastal community to factor in for infrastructure and development provision. It will also benefit other forms of Government eg. for planning purposes it would indicate the communities peak season demands from a service delivery point of view such as hospital or emergency resources required at peak times. It will also benefit peak bodies such as Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA) to aid their

planning and advocacy.

If the topic is not included in the 2021 Census, Alexandrina Council (as a small, regional local government authority) will struggle to put in place its own data collation mechanisms to track similar data over time.

In persistently missing a key trend in our mobile population movements, we run the risk of degrading the quality of our infrastructure faster than we would otherwise plan, or not put in place sufficiently robust infrastructure in the first instance.

The Alexandrina LGA has two different localities with differing population trends – one inland and closer to the Adelaide Hills (Strathalbyn) and one that follows the Fleurieu coastline from the Murray Mouth to Port Elliot (Coastal). We anticipate the trends involved in second residence/ownership of another dwelling will also differ – with Coastal likely to depict second home ownership more prominently.

Census data:

Questions - 'Where does the person usually live?' and 'Where did the person usually live five years ago? While this data is useful, its lag data and helps explains present impacts, not assist our strategic planning to manage future impacts (which a question on second home is more likely to do).

Local data:

Waste usage may be a data source, but this will only produce tonnage increases, not population counts. Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority collects waste data for the Alexandrina region.

This topic is recommended, and advocated for, by leading academics such as Professor Graeme Hugo. It is also a feature of discussion as part of the Australian Coastal Councils deliberations and we anticipate would be widely welcomed by local government – especially coastal areas. Refer to Professor Hugo's address to the Australian Coastal Communities Councils Conference in 2013:

<http://www.seachangetaskforce.org.au/Publications/MON%204%20Hugo.pdf>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data collection for the whole population on second home/ownership of another dwelling, if done on a national scale, will enable national, state, regional and local trends to be understood and compared across Australia. Combined with vacancy rates, this will assist, particularly coastal councils to provide an evidence base of population impacts during peak times.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic second home ownership/ownership if another dwelling is very easy to understand and answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

If appropriately communicated by the ABS in introducing the Census 2021 to community, the question is not likely to be controversial as many in the community own more than one dwelling - it is not unusual.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic is manageable from a collection viewpoint.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Population trends and impacts of seasonal populations are long ranging and there will be a need to collect this information over multiple Census periods. Particularly as technology is enabling Australians to live more easily in multiple dwellings over the period of a week, this is likely to become an even more pressing issue into the future. For example, in Alexandrina Council many residents spend varying days of the week and seasons of the year at metro and coastal dwellings. There is increasingly a mixed pattern, especially with the introduction of NBN into the area.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Local data:

Waste usage may be a useful data source, but this will only produce tonnage increases, not population counts. Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority collects waste data for the Alexandrina region.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This topic is likely to be of interest to many regional and coastal councils, as well as policy makers.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 163091333

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Health

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission seeks the inclusion of a topic in the 2021 Census on smoking status, to support planning and delivery of health care services for regions, communities and population groups.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Smoking

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Australia is a global leader in tobacco control policy. As a result of successful efforts over many years in reducing smoking rate, the latest daily smoking prevalence is at 12.2% of people aged 14 and above. 1 Smoking, however, remains a major public health issue with far reaching consequences affecting smokers, their family members and communities they live in. According to the latest Australian Burden of Disease Study (ABDS), the joint effect of health risk factors accounted for 31% of the total burden of disease and injury in Australia in 2011, with tobacco use accounting for the greatest amount of burden (9%). The ABDS also estimated that smoking caused a total of 18,762 deaths in 2011, or more than 1 in every 8 deaths

(12.8%). 2

Adverse effects of smoking not only affect smokers but those who share their environment, and they can continue to affect smokers long after they stopped smoking.

Smoking is more prevalent in disadvantaged groups, affecting subpopulations of Australians differently. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples show substantially higher smoking rates than the rest of the population, as do members of some other culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, tobacco smoking rate remains high at 45% (18 years and older) in 2014-15.³ After adjusting for the different age structures of the two populations, Indigenous mothers were 3.6 times as likely to smoke during pregnancy as non-Indigenous mothers.⁴

Reducing smoking rate in Indigenous population would significantly contribute to meeting the Closing the Gap targets (particularly the life expectancy target for which we are currently not on track to achieve).

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016: detailed findings. Drug Statistics series no. 31. Cat. no. PHE 214. Canberra: AIHW.

2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Risk Factors to Health, Web Report, Last updated 07 Aug 2017 Assessment criteria

3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Smoking Trends, Australia, 1994 to 2014-15, ABS cat.no. 4737.0

4. Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 Report, AHMAC, Canberra.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Australian Government spends a significant amount of funding on tobacco control policies and programs each year, and effectiveness of these would improve further if the 2021 Census was able to provide reliable smoking rates for small geographic areas and small population groups. This would facilitate more targeted messaging and programs to assist Australians with smoking cessation,

Collecting smoking status data along with other Census information such as demographic information, family structure, socioeconomic information and others will help identify target groups who would benefit from anti-smoking messages/campaigns/interventions.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Questions about smoking behaviour can be relatively easily expressed in words as has been done in the New Zealand Census, making this topic suitable for the self-administered questionnaire used in the Census. Australia will be able to draw on this New Zealand experience.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Smoking, quitting smoking, health effects of smoking and so forth are regular topics of conversation among many people and these topics would not be characterised as being controversial.

There may be an issue of some level of under-reporting (especially if a single person in a household administers the Census form), but this issue is not unique to smoking status question.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Exact wording of smoking status questions for inclusion in the next Census will need to be worked through, but it is not likely that this topic will be a lengthy one. Statistics New Zealand would be able to inform ABS about the time requirement for this module

Responses to the smoking status questions will be easily processed as categorical response options can be provided to respondents.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

We envisage a continuing need for data on this topic. While a single collection of smoking status alone would provide valuable information to inform health policies and program delivery, collection of smoking status in the subsequent Census(s) will allow identification of geographic areas where smoking rate has decreased and subpopulations whose smoking rate has decreased. The trend data will be very valuable in determining effective ways to further drive down the smoking rate, particularly among those who are in the at-risk groups.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are a number of sources of smoking prevalence estimates in Australia, including:

- National Drug Strategy Household Survey
- National Health Survey

And also, specific to Indigenous population:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

While these are valuable data assets, they cannot be used to reliably estimate smoking rates in small geographic areas, and for small population groups. Lack of reliable point-in-time data at this level, makes it impossible to evaluate trends over time.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 68887345

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Health

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission seeks the inclusion of a topic in the 2021 Census on self-reported prevalence of chronic conditions, to support planning and delivery of health care services for regions, communities and population groups.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Chronic conditions

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data on chronic conditions are required to support policy development, planning and service delivery and program monitoring.

Chronic conditions are the leading cause of illness and death in Australia. The burden of chronic conditions in Australia is growing – a factor in the increased demand for services and rising health expenditure.¹

Chronic conditions are becoming increasingly common due to our ageing population as well as our changing lifestyles. The increasing prevalence of chronic conditions, combined with their long term and persistent nature, and their impact on quality of life and overall health, is placing unprecedented pressure on individuals, families, our communities, and the health system. ²

According to self-reporting in the 2014-15 National Health Survey, 1 in every 2 Australians (50%) have at least one prominent (i.e. arthritis, asthma, back pain, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes or mental health) chronic condition. The 2014-15 National Health Survey data also shows that nearly a quarter of all Australians (23%), and 3 in every 5 Australians (60%) aged over 65 years, had two or more chronic conditions.³

The National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions was publically released in May 2017 following endorsement by all health ministers⁴. During consultation to develop the Framework, feedback highlighted the need for progress against the Framework to be monitored in a consistent manner and informed by a nationally agreed set of performance measures which, where possible, align with Australia's international reporting commitments. Monitoring progress against the Framework would assist to create accountability and to enable formal and consistent reporting on chronic conditions in Australia. Chronic conditions are being addressed at a national level through a wide range of programs and initiatives to support prevention, treatment and management. Significant funding is also provided to ensure that quality clinical research is conducted into chronic conditions, and to maintain national monitoring and surveillance measures.

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016, Australia's health series no. 15, Cat. no. AUS 199, Canberra
2. Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council, 2017 National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions, Australian Government, Canberra
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, National health Survey: First Results 2014-15 ABS Cat. no. 4364.0.55.0014
4. Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council, 2017 National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions, Australian Government, Canberra

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Despite the scale of the problem, there is limited information on the prevalence of chronic conditions at the local level, and for particular population groups. This hampers the ability to develop effective policies and programs to target health services to areas of need, and to evaluate their outcomes. It also limits the research and reporting on the social determinants that increase the likelihood of developing a chronic condition.

Data on self-reported prevalence of chronic conditions can support:

- Primary Health Networks (PHNs) which are focusing on the health of the populations within their regions, including whether some groups are more at risk of poor health outcomes than others. PHNs have a key role in ensuring that health services are more accessible and tailored to community needs, supporting general practitioners and other health professionals to deliver high quality care, and improving care coordination for those at risk of poor health outcomes;
- Possible local, regional and national targets that are determined by the Closing the Gap refresh, and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have access to effective health care services in urban, regional, rural and remote locations; and
- Stronger remote, rural and regional health outcomes by informing planning for health workforce distribution and health care infrastructure.

A chronic conditions topic would be significantly enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census to understand social determinants of health, and inform actions to address health inequalities.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Short question modules on chronic or long term health conditions are currently

included in a number of ABS and non-ABS collections.

The increased awareness of chronic conditions in the community will help to support the collection of meaningful data. It would be possible to focus on particular chronic conditions by selecting from a number of conditions which are easily recognisable by the public. If this approach is taken, the Department would like to have a further opportunity to provide input. Conditions of particular interest include dementia, arthritis, asthma, chronic pain, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and mental health conditions (depression and anxiety). Other specific conditions may be nominated for particular sub-populations.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

ABS may be able to advise on the acceptability of the topic to Census respondents, as we understand that this topic was included in initial testing for the 2016 Census, but did not proceed given there were no changes to topics in the 2016 Census.

While the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial, questions on chronic conditions may be sensitive for some respondents, as is the case for some other Census questions. It will be important to provide information on the privacy and security safeguards for Census information, and public value of collecting this information in the Census, in order to assist respondents to be willing to answer accurately. The collection of self-reported data on chronic conditions is known to have some limitations e.g. some individuals may be unwilling or unable to identify as having the condition, or family members may identify household members as having a condition without a formal diagnosis. However the lack of clinical data with respect to the prevalence of many chronic conditions means that the Census provides the best alternative to obtaining population level data.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A topic on chronic conditions can be collected efficiently via a question which includes a number of specified conditions to be selected.

We do not envisage the need for lengthy instruction or explanation, but it will be important that the question wording and instructions provide guidance to ensure that information is collected with respect to conditions which are current (or very likely to re-occur), long-term and persistent, and likely to have been diagnosed and/or treated by a health care professional.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The increasing prevalence and impact of chronic conditions - particularly with the ageing of the population - means that there is a need for ongoing data collection on this topic.

The longitudinal data arising from this time series will provide another powerful tool in assessing health outcomes arising from policies and programs, directing further policy development, and providing warning signs of emerging issues.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data on long term health conditions is collected via a number of ABS surveys, particularly the ABS National Health Surveys and the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey. These will continue to be important in providing high quality information at the broad level, and to allow the data to be correlated with other detailed health information including risk factors, and use of health services. However it is not possible for sample surveys to provide disaggregated data at the level that is required – for small geographic areas and for small population groups.

There is registry information for some chronic conditions, but they only contain limited socio-demographic information, which limits the potential analysis that can be undertaken.

The Medicare Benefits Schedule and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme do not contain information on health conditions. While hospital morbidity data does hold this information, it is restricted to hospital presentations, and so does not provide adequate information for the population.

The Shared Health Summary within the My Health Record contains information on medical conditions, medicines, allergies and adverse reactions, and immunisations. This will not be a source of information for the entire population.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 337663723

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Health

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Department of Health is seeking an additional question relating to the Nation/ Clan / Mob identification of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander respondents in order to improve the accuracy of counting of the Indigenous population.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☐ Location

☐ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is well understood and poses an ongoing policy challenge for Governments at all levels. Closing the Gap, a key policy goal of Government, is of national importance and attracts bipartisan support. Improving the available data on this population, including at the nation, clan or mob levels as well as geographical levels is critical to ensuring that policy development is informed by the best available information.

This is also the case in delivering services to marginalised communities, which due to geography, historical disadvantage, or intergenerational trauma must be approached with care and sensitivity.

Understanding the numbers and geography of these populations is critical in

ensuring that the policy approaches that are adopted are sufficiently targeted to be both effective and efficient. Only by doing this will progress be made towards Closing the Gap.

There is growing evidence that cultural safety is crucial to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's engagement with health care in Australia, as noted in the Cultural Respect Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2016-2026. Improving our understanding of the diversity of nation/clan/mob identification, including by small area geography, would greatly assist in responding to the challenge of making the health system culturally safe for Indigenous Australians.

This information would also assist Australian Government in understanding diversity and numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for policy and planning proposed.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This additional question is important to improve the accuracy of measuring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, both as a whole group but also with regard to subgroups. There was an estimated undercount of 17.5 per cent of this population in the 2016 Census, which has the potential to reduce funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused programs, which are targeting the most disadvantaged people in Australia.

Because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations are more concentrated in regional and remote areas than the general Australian population, this question will be very useful in the accurate measurement of populations living in small geographic areas.

Many Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander groups belong to nations, clans or mobs, with distinct languages and identities. It is of critical importance that the demography of these groups is properly understood so that they can be

supported. An understanding of the characteristics of these groups will be a powerful policy tool which will assist in devising policy approaches that will provide tailored support to improve their lives.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It would be possible to express the question(s) about the Nation/ Clan / Mob identification of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identification in a way that is easy for the household respondents to answer after some appropriate data development effort to ensure this.

Use of the Edward Tilton language map should be considered to support this data collection. The Indigenous Health Division can provide more information if required.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This is a topic that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents will know and be able to answer readily. It should be noted that due to the historical treatment of some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by Government there might be some reluctance to answer. This could be overcome with proper

preparation for collectors and through written or advertising materials.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This question would likely be relatively simple to collect, and would be information that the respondents will readily know. However, because of the large number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, it would likely require a significant list of possible responses and may pose challenges for processing or coding.

With increasing numbers of households completing their Census online, questions such as this have become feasible for the first time.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a continuing need for data on this topic. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are among the most disadvantaged populations in Australia. It is certain that over the long term significant resources must be dedicated to improving their lives and giving access to the kind of opportunities that other Australians take for granted.

To do this there must be an accurate count of the population at a variety of levels so that the right assistance can be delivered to the right people in the right place. This is a persistent policy challenge and therefore time series information is critical to delivering the proper quantum of assistance over time. This is particularly important because of the variable populations that make up the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander grouping, including those that are travelling or absent from their normal geographical homes on Census night.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This data is not reliably collected elsewhere, and cannot be reproduced or synthesised through the use of other datasets. While there may be organisations that collect some of this data, it is not available in a systematic, useable form. It is particularly important that this information be collected by a credible data custodian with clear accountabilities so that respondents can be reassured that it will not be misused, given previous experiences that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may have had with Government entities.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 588182671

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

South Gippsland Shire Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Bass Coast Health / South Coast Inclusion Network

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The wording of questions around sex and gender to ensure increased response

to the questions an increase in the range of data collected.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This topic is important to plan for policy development, planning and service delivery to LGBTI communities.

The data will increase knowledge of the proportion of the population identifying as LGBTI and those not born male or female (intersex)

The topic relates not only to sex but also to gender.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

A combination of questions that identify both biological sex at birth and sexual orientation could identify changes over time from people born one sex and changing and also people's sexual orientation. The data is needed to define small population groups who are LGBTI or intersex. This will inform the level of service provision in small geographic areas to at least LGA or ideally SA2. The provision of the question in the census that is completed by the whole population will be able to highlight differences in identification across geographical areas, rural versus towns and be cross referenced with age groups, people born in other countries, people working in different industries and with health data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Whilst the topic may be seen as controversial to some in the community who may consider sex and gender as a binary matter, the question if set in two parts to identify biological sex at birth and gender identity will provide clear responses.

As a two part question the answer should be quick and easy to respond to. The three choice question in the 2016 Census does not address the issue of sex at birth, any changes over time. For example a trans woman is likely to tick female to the existing question even if they were born a male or intersex. The question could extract the information without the respondent feeling labelled or inferior by a certain identity.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Increased accuracy will be gained by changing this question as indicated in the response to criteria 3. The question should not seek to try to name all types of gender identity but might offer the respondent to add more information for gender identify as with the current question. This coupled with the sex at birth will allow ready responses without associated feelings of judgement or discrimination

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic will be easy to split into two parts of the same question, one for sex at birth and the other for gender identity now.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data may provide changes over time for certain age groups allowing for targeting of services to LGBTI individuals at certain times of life. As society changes and gender differences are seen as fluid and acceptable, so the changes in responses from LGBTI people increase. A time series should pick up these societal opinion changes and allow broader inclusion and service provision to this minority group in society.

This topic will increase in relevance into the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Alternative data sources currently come from specialist service providers and support groups requiring LGBTI people to have identified publicly and recorded their gender identity on other forms. There are many people who would not choose to do this due to stigma or do not have the opportunity to provide a range of responses on a form.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

No further comments thank you

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 865622416

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

National Peak Body

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The need for language proficiency data to be gathered more broadly than currently represented in 'main language other than English spoken at home'. Namely FECCA suggests the inclusion of a supplementary question to 'Main Language spoken at Home' which allows respondents to identify their preferred language and any other languages spoken and which have not been captured by the Census questions.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☐ Main language other than English spoken at home
- ☐

☐ Proficiency in spoken English

☐ Ancestry

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

FECCA suggests that the census question which invites individuals to list their 'Main Language Other than English Spoken at home' could be altered to capture more accurately the data on multilingualism and individuals' preferred language.

In order to maintain consistency across Census data sets, FECCA suggests that a supplementary question could be a method by which data sets across Census years are maintained but more nuanced and richer data sets captured. For instance, a supplementary question could invite individuals to list their main languages other than English and to identify their preferred language.

This would allow for more accurate data on language diversity, language retention and multilingualism in Australia which could be used for a wide range of policies and inform services offerings across government, industry and community.

The overall data collected would result in a richer and more accurate profile of languages spoken across Australia.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Mapping the linguistic diversity of the whole population can only be done at a comprehensive level via the Census. This will allow for the capture of small and geographically dispersed populations and ensure that the richest possible picture of Australia's linguistic diversity is reflected in the Census collection.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is easy for members of the household to name the languages they speak and to list these either by entering the text or via a drop-down menu.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Many Australians speak more than one language but this is not currently captured accurately or fully by the question 'Main language other than English spoken at home'. The suggested change seeks the inclusion of a supplementary question to capture this data. This is neither controversial, intrusive nor offensive as the Census already captures data on language spoken.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The data to be collected in the supplementary question will not require extensive instructions nor lengthy explanations and could be captured by a single supplementary question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be an ongoing need for this data as Australia continues to accept migrants and as households become more diverse. This data will be useful for social planning around language services to assist Australians to access information and opportunities in their preferred language.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

FECCA is not aware of any comprehensive and consistent data collection of this kind either by the ABS or any other organisation.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

FECCA believes it is crucial for individuals to record their language proficiency without being constrained by the parameters of 'main language spoken at home' although this remains a valuable question. To this end, we suggest the inclusion of a supplementary question to capture the linguistic diversity of respondents more fully.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 904441138

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)
National Allergy Strategy (NAS)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia ("A&AA") is a registered charity and Australia's

only national support organisation, dedicated to helping individuals and carers alike in managing allergy and anaphylaxis.

Our Vision: Improved quality of life for all Australians living with allergic disease.

Our Mission: The trusted charity for allergy support. We listen, guide and educate Australians living with allergic disease. We advocate on their behalf to ensure their voice is heard.

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia would like to see the following question included in the 2021 census:

Do you have one or more of the following allergic conditions (select all that apply):

- ☐ Allergic rhinitis (hay fever)
- ☐ Food allergy
- ☐ Allergy to insect stings or bites
- ☐ Drug (medication) allergy
- ☐ Severe life threatening allergy (anaphylaxis)
- ☐ Atopic dermatitis (eczema)

This information would be very helpful in planning our services and directing our resources in a more targeted manner.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☒ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Allergic diseases are one of the fastest growing conditions worldwide and are a major public health problem. The world is dealing with an allergy epidemic. It is critical that we capture data on allergic diseases in Australia.

Obtaining national data regarding allergic conditions via the Census will provide insight into the national magnitude of these conditions and support policy and resource development and allocation to improve the quality of life of Australians living with allergic conditions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The current data available regarding allergic conditions tends to be focussed in particular regions and national data is lacking. Further to this, there is very little data on allergy prevalence regarding all allergic conditions – the majority of the data currently collected focuses on specific allergies rather than all allergic conditions.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data regarding allergic conditions can be accurately collected by the inclusion of a question in the Census. The topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents; the topic can be collected in a simple question; respondents will easily know the answer to the question; and the question is easy and quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The inclusion of a question about allergic conditions would be acceptable to Census respondents as the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial. Respondents are also likely to be willing and able to answer the question accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The question about allergic conditions that we are proposing will not present major difficulties for coding the information. The question will not require extensive processing and the will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census. The question will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation and will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

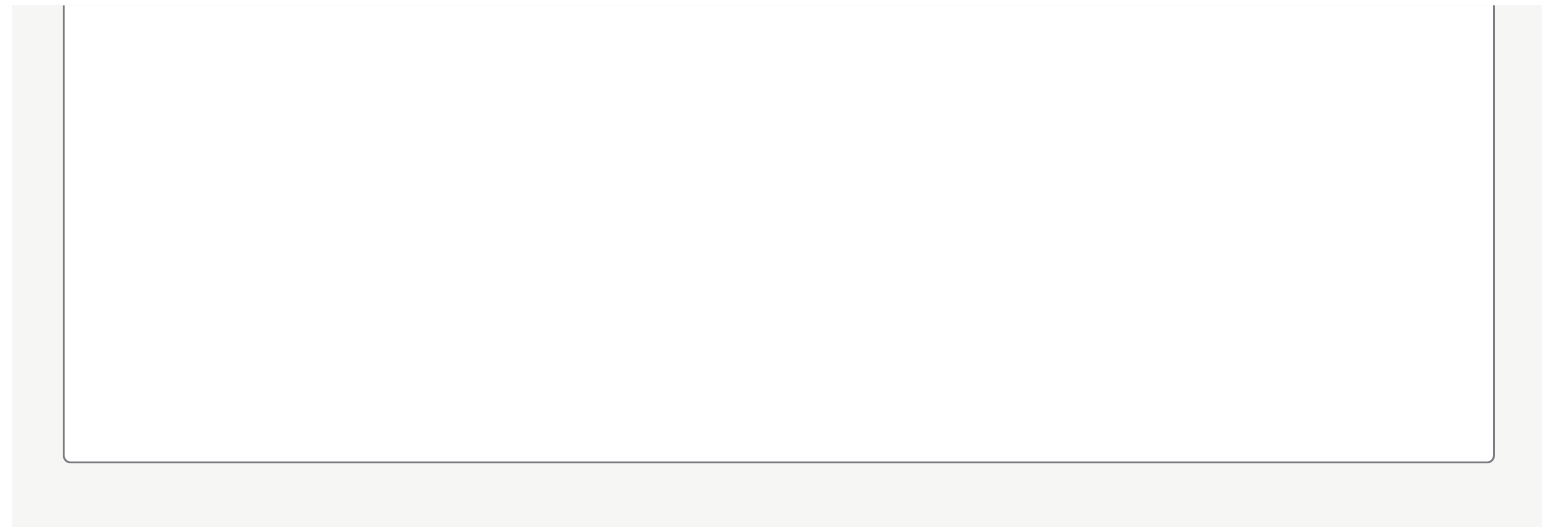
In Australia, allergic conditions appear to be rapidly increasing without clear explanation for the cause. Therefore, ongoing collection of data about allergic conditions is valuable to inform us as to whether any efforts to prevent allergic conditions are successful.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Currently national data regarding allergic conditions is not being collected in a meaningful way through any other sources.



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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 315190930

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

National Allergy Strategy

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIa)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The National Allergy Strategy aims to address public health issues relating to

the rapid and continuing rise of allergy in Australia and improve the health and quality of life of people with allergic diseases, their carers and the community.

The National Allergy Strategy would like to propose the inclusion of the following question relating to allergic conditions.

Do you have one or more of the following allergic conditions (select all that apply):

- ☐ Allergic rhinitis (hay fever)
- ☐ Food allergy
- ☐ Allergy to insect stings or bites
- ☐ Drug (medication) allergy
- ☐ Severe life threatening allergy (anaphylaxis)
- ☐ Atopic dermatitis (eczema)

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Allergic diseases are one of the fastest growing conditions worldwide and are a major public health problem. The world is dealing with an allergy epidemic. It is critical that we capture data on allergic diseases in Australia.

Obtaining national data regarding allergic conditions via the Census will provide insight into the national magnitude of these conditions and support policy and resource development to improve the quality of life of Australians living with allergic conditions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The current data available regarding allergic conditions tends to be focused in particularly regions and national data is lacking. Further to this, there is very

little data on allergy prevalence regarding all allergic conditions – the majority of the data currently collected focuses on specific allergies rather than all allergic conditions.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data regarding allergic conditions can be accurately collected by the inclusion of a question in the Census. The topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents; the topic can be collected in a simple question; respondents will easily know the answer to the question; and the question is easy and quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The inclusion of a question about allergic conditions would be acceptable to Census respondents as the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial. Respondents are also likely to be willing and able to answer the question accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The question about allergic conditions that we are proposing will not present major difficulties for coding the information. The question will not require extensive processing and the will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census. The question will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation and will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

In Australia, allergic conditions appear to be rapidly increasing without clear explanation for the cause. Therefore, ongoing collection of data about allergic conditions is valuable to inform us as to whether any efforts to prevent allergic conditions are successful.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Currently national data regarding allergic conditions is not being collected in a meaningful way through any other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1015167536

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Broadcasting service

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

SBS recommends the inclusion of an additional question on languages spoken. The question may be worded as 'Do you speak any other languages regularly?'.

Language data is used across SBS services to support planning and program monitoring. The Census 2016 (and prior) question on 'language spoken at home' does not sufficiently capture the depth and breadth of languages spoken in Australia.

Collecting data from the whole population is the only way to measure language speakers. Many language communities are small – less than 1000 for some languages.

As noted above, trends in language use in Australia are vital to planning services, both for SBS and for the wider community. As such, there is a need for time series data on this topic.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Language data is used across SBS services to support planning and program

monitoring. The Census 2016 (and prior) question on 'language spoken at home' does not sufficiently capture the way languages other than English may be used by individuals. For example, individuals may speak English with close family members, and another language with extended family; individuals may have learnt a language in academic contexts, but don't speak it at home; or individuals may come from a country with multiple official languages, of which they speak more than one fluently.

The Census 2016 indicates that 4.87m people speak a language other than English at home. This question does not capture the true depth and breadth of languages spoken in Australia for the reasons outlined above. A supplementary question would ensure the primary data remains intact along with the trends, and would provide a more accurate picture of the extent of languages other than English spoken in Australia.

SBS conducted a public consultation in 2011 and 2016, prior to the release of the Census data. We received many submissions from community organisations that believe the current Census question doesn't accurately measure the number of people speaking a particular language, and as a result, they claim their language is under-represented by SBS.

SBS provides an extensive range of programs and services to support migrant settlement in Australia, including through its many in-language radio programs, and particularly its practical in-language Settlement Guides. These services connect people to Australian news, life and values in their own language, enabling greater participation in community life.

SBS is a key source for international and national news and current affairs on television and online in English as well as other languages, helping migrants keep in touch with news directly from their country of origin. In providing these services SBS strengthens and preserves Australia's diverse cultural society. SBS engages directly with migrant communities through partnerships with organisations and projects for young people, and is constantly seeking out ways to strengthen these relationships.

SBS relies on language data from the Census to inform its language services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Collecting data from the whole population is the only way to measure language speakers. Many language communities are small – less than 1000 for some languages. However, it is vital that SBS is aware of these speakers, and trends in language-speaking populations. For example, a trending increase in speakers of a particular language may suggest a future need for services in that language – allowing for SBS to conduct forward planning for service provision.

As above, surveying a narrow geographic area would not give reliable data, as the sample size would be too small.

It is useful to combine language data with other characteristics collected in the Census – particularly other aspects of the Cultural Diversity theme, but also other characteristics including, for example: location; age; educational level; and employment.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

SBS recommends that the question be formatted in such a way that it mirrors the 'language spoken at home' Census question ('Does the person speak a language other than English at home'). This will ensure that it is: easily understood by respondents; respondents will easily know the answer to the question; and the question will be easy and quick to answer.

SBS suggests that only one, simple, question be added to the Census to collect this information.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As Census respondents are already asked to answer a question on language spoken at home, the addition of a question on 'other languages spoken fluently' is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial. Respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately. There are no additional considerations that would need to be made for specific groups.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As we recommend that the format of the question mirror that of the question on 'language spoken at home', we foresee information collection to be efficient.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Cultural diversity will continue to be significant in Australia's future. Australia will continue to adapt to new waves of migration and work to support the existing diversity of the Australian population. As such, the complex and changing nature of Australian cultural diversity should be part of the data and research used to inform decision making about policy initiatives. As such, the question will remain relevant in the future.

As noted above, trends in language use in Australia are vital to planning services, both for SBS and for the wider community. As such, there is a need for time series data on this topic.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no alternative data sources which have the capacity to capture information on smaller language communities (in some cases, fewer than 1000 people nationwide).

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

International examples provide some comparison as to the level of detail collected in the census regarding language ability and use. For example:

The Canadian Census asks:

- Can this person speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?
- What language does this person speak most often at home?
- Does this person speak any other languages on a regular basis at home?
- What is the language that this person first learned at home in childhood and still understands?

The New Zealand Census (2011) asked:

- In which language(s) could you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things? [allows for multiple responses]



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 455396133

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Expand the sex and sexual identity questions

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is becoming more common for families to not raise their children as a particular gender. It is also becoming more common for young people to change their gender.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is difficult to get a proper national measure of the incidence of LGBTIQ as any self-selected survey on the topic would likely result in a higher incidence being reported (those who are LGBTIQ will want to participate to be heard, whereas others would be less likely to participate as it isn't relevant to them).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Expand the 'sex question':

Split into 2 questions:

Q1 What sex was the person assigned at birth?: male, female, none.

Q2 What is the person's current gender?: male, female, non-binary, other identity.

Sexual identify question:

What is the persons sexual orientation?

-Heterosexual (only attracted to those of the opposite sex)

-Not sure yet

-Homosexual (only attracted to people of the same sex)

-Bisexual / Pansexual (attracted to people of more than one sex)

-Other

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Will probably be under-measured for those still living at home with their family who haven't come out yet.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

These 2 questions will be able to better clarify the sex variable (Q1 would be comparable to past sex data collected in the census) but also allow for the identification of:

- Those who have transitioned to a different gender.
- The incidence of families raising children without a gender.
- The frequency of young people who are gender questioning.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It is becoming more common for families to not raise their children as a particular gender. It is also becoming more common for young people to change their gender.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is difficult to get a proper national measure of the incidence of LGBTIQ as any self-selected survey on the topic would likely result in a higher incidence being reported (those who are LGBTIQ will want to participate to be heard, whereas others would be less likely to participate as it isn't relevant to them).



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 612087407

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Method of travel to places within 2km from home

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is important to know what transport people use for short trips, and we can then know transport types used for those who don't work as well.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is important to know what transport people use for short trips, and we can then know transport types used for those who don't work as well.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

What modes of transport has the person used in the last week to travel to places within 2km of your home (eg. Friends, family, shops, park, services).
Can provide a simplified list: Car, public transport, walk, cycle, motorbike, other.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

What modes of transport has the person used in the last week to travel to places within 2km of your home (eg. Friends, family, shops, park, services).
Can provide a simplified list: Car, public transport, walk, cycle, motorbike, other.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It is important to know what transport people use for short trips, and we can then know transport types used for those who don't work as well.

In line with the Victorian State policy to develop 20 min neighbourhoods we want to understand how people are getting around for shorter trips and also how people are getting around when not work related.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 523390080

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Moreland City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

A means of assessing social cohesion/ connectedness has become important at a national and down to a granular level.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Social cohesion/connectedness

Topics on Income and work

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☐

☐ Industry of employment

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Connectedness has become a subject of increased importance for Australia as a means of testing social cohesion. For example:

- A social cohesion project has been established within the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) under the National Anti-Racism Strategy
- The AHRC commissioned a policy document Building social cohesion in our communities (2015), which provides guidelines for local government to build and monitor social cohesion
- Social cohesion is being recognised at state level for example in Victoria a Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Taskforce has been established, comprising of Ministers for Education, Multicultural Affairs, Youth Affairs and Police, and chaired by the Deputy Premier
- Local Councils, such as Moreland, are developing Social Cohesion policies and planning frameworks

In an increasingly multicultural society with people from different cultures and beliefs living side-by-side it is necessary to understand the level of cohesiveness as this is an indicator of trust when at high levels and potential marginalisation when at low levels.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Being able to identify geographical areas and/or social groups experiencing low social cohesion would help many organisations to understand where to place their efforts.

This information would be able to be used at the granular local level up to the state and federal level.

Specifically, spatial demographics and a nation-wide measure social connectedness at the SA1 level would facilitate actions at all levels of government, from national to local implementation

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This could be collected as a yes/no question

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This could be collected as a yes/no question, for example I feel connected to my friends, family and/or community / I can ask for help when I need it from my friends, family and/or neighbours?

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Social cohesion was first raised as a consideration for social policy in the 1990s as a response to social issues arising with rapid globalisation and growth of the world's economy. It has since remained relevant and prevalent in social policy and planning in Australia (e.g. Australian Human Rights Commission). The Scanlon Foundation and Monash University (Scanlon-Monash Index) have been measuring social cohesion since 2007 to present (ongoing).

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Current information is being collected ad-hoc and/or with a relatively small sample size and/or geographic reach, in proportion to the scale of the prospective need/issue (for example see the Scanlon-Monash index: <http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/social-cohesion-index/>)

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 424750595

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Moreland City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Capturing casualisation of employment via the gig economy and short term contracts

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☐ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☐ Hours worked
- ☐ Self employed - number of employees
- ☐ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The increasing casualisation of employment, the 'gig economy' and the future of work are well documented topics of national importance

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As employment is shifting away from stable full-time employment to casual/short-term-contract employment it is time to start tracking this trend over time to help understand the scope of this change and identify the cohorts involved. Capturing those participating in casual work and those on contracts (especially short term contracts) would enable analysis of factors such as earnings, whether level of education plays a function and if this is weighted in terms of gender. Such types of employment have an effect on retirement savings, financial security, and mental/emotional stress. It would also enable the true level of underemployment to be calculated.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This can readily be collected based on minor extension of existing questions used to determine labour force status

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Questions on employment status have been collected in the past

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This can readily be collected based on an extension of existing questions used to determine labour force status

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As employment is shifting away from stable full-time employment to casual/short-term-contract employment it is time to start tracking this trend over

time to help understand the scope of this change and identify the cohorts involved. This would provide useful information for local government and other services to provide support to local community members. This is also of importance at both the State and Federal level to allow assessment of the effects on health, wellbeing and readiness for retirement.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are regular/other ABS products that track employment status, however a census would provide a comprehensive and spatial demographic snapshot in a form more readily useful for local services.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 681617862

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Requesting continued inclusion of the question about internet connection.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Internet connection

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Household and family relationships
- ☒ Marital status
- ☒ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Internet

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

A lack of internet access is a key indicator of disadvantage and social exclusion through lack of digital literacy. This issue has been recognised at national level by programs such as Be Connected <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Local governments, such **Redacted text**, use information on internet access at home, combined with other demographic information, to provide targeted information and services via libraries for increasing digital literacy. This is particularly relevant to low-income households and/or older population cohorts (50 years +).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

N/A we are recommending that the existing question remains, as is

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

N/A we are recommending that the existing question remains

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

N/A we are recommending that the existing question remains

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Until such time as universal internet access to all households, internet access will remain important for contributing information on the proportion and location of the population that is likely to have low digital literacy and experience exclusion.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Given the relevance of digital literacy to operating in today's society and the need for targeted local services to address relevant issues, we argue that SA1 datasets provide critical information for local government and library services.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 684561804

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Casey

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Nil

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

In understanding sex and gender, the City of Casey recommends that the 2021

Census include 3 questions regarding:

- Sex as biological characteristics – male, female, intersex
- Gender as self-identifying characteristics – male, female, don't identify as either, transgender, gender diverse
- Sexual identity/sexual orientation/romantic attraction – heterosexual, homosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual or other

The identification of sex or gender is consistent with discussion raised by the ABS as part of this consultation and the City of Casey agrees with this.

The Census has been increasingly used to understand same-sex relationships and sexual orientation, particularly in the lead up to, and introduction of, the Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017. However, the current use of data is restricted to understanding same-sex couples who live in a de facto or married relationship and limits the capacity to understanding broader communities in this space.

The City of Casey considers it timely to expand questions relating to sex and gender to demonstrate respect and recognition for how people describe their own genders and relationships through the use of inclusive language throughout the Census questionnaire; and to assist the planning for and delivery of programs and services to meet community needs.

In addition, the City of Casey recommends that the remainder of Census questions are reviewed with this level of inclusiveness in mind. For example, within the Cultural Diversity topic, questions regarding the birthplace of the person's mother and father should be amended to parent 1, parent 2, etc.

To assist the City of Casey's understanding of this topic, reference has been made to the Child Family Community Australia LGBTIQ+ communities glossary of terms Resource Sheet, available through the Australian Institute of Family Studies website.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

(

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Collecting a more robust set of data on sex and gender is relevant in supporting the planning and delivery of targeted programs and services, particularly those who are ostracised due to their sex and/or gender.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

By combining newly collected data on sex and gender with other characteristics collected in the census, a more holistic picture on national equality can be understood particularly regarding socio-economic status (SEIFA), education, employment, occupation and income.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

By asking three separate questions on sex (biological), gender (self-identifying) and sexual identity/sexual orientation/romantic attraction and adding the relevant options, it will make clear exactly what data each question aims to collect.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

While it is likely that inclusive questions around sex and gender are likely to be controversial in some households, recent changes to the definition of marriage provide a window of opportunity to openly discuss and contemporise how people identify. 61.6% of people said yes allow same-sex couples to marry; most Australians are therefore also likely to welcome more inclusive questions on sex, gender and relationships.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Similar to male and female data collection in the past, projections, life expectancy, family structure and comparisons are likely to be key outputs of collecting data on both sex and gender.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Collecting this data on all future Census questionnaires can assist in understanding how and where equality amongst different sexes and genders is changing.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Current data on gender does not recognise gender to be inclusive of anything other than men and women and sex as male and female.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 758505622

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Casey

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

nil

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The City of Casey agrees with feedback identified by the ABS for the 2021

Census regarding the representation of diverse family structures in Australia, particularly regarding children in shared custody arrangements.

In accordance with the questions asked in the 2016 Census, this may not require an additional question but rather more information to enable a person to select more than one 'usual' place of residence, e.g. "For persons who usually live at more than one address, such as living with their other parent/guardian, write the address of the second place of residence."

Further confirmation can be achieved by matching responses from the second place of residence reporting that a person was away on the night of the Census to support integrity of results.

The City of Casey includes higher than average proportions of young families. The level of divorce/separation is also higher than the State and National averages in this region. A greater understanding of household structures, particularly the propensity of children living in shared custody arrangements, assists in the planning and delivery of local support and relevant services.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location

- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships
- ☒ Marital status
- ☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Assists in understanding that families are no longer the typical 'nuclear family' unit. Separation and family breakdowns have been linked to school absenteeism and therefore an overall socio-economic disadvantage for affected children. More robust data on shared custody arrangements can geographically assist the planning and delivery of support services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This topic is valuable in capturing a national picture on contemporary family units where shared custody arrangements, mixed families and blended families are more common.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Collecting information on shared custody arrangements does not require any additional questions. More information and the option to select more than one place of residence is all that is necessary.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Respondents will require additional information informing them to note more than one usual place of residence due to shared custody arrangement.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The additional option of noting more than one usual place of residence for children is an extra point of data that can be compared over time to socio-economic, educational and employment status.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As shared custody arrangements for children continue, relevant facilities and early intervention services can be better targeted for those who need it.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Studies have been conducted on shared custody arrangements following the 2006 Family Law Reform based on court files at the time. These can be found on the Australian Institute of Family Studies. However, there is no updated data on the number of children currently in a shared custody arrangement.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 762324034

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Casey

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Nil

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The City of Casey agrees with feedback identified by the ABS for the 2021

Census regarding the representation 'Need for assistance'.

The City of Casey is primarily concerned with the accuracy of results regarding 'Need for assistance' and whether this is truly representative of the population with a disability, or whether the responses obtained align with disability as defined by the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) where disability is "any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months". Given that 'Need for assistance' is used to understand the proportion of the population with a disability, the City of Casey suggests that questions surrounding this topic should define what is meant by a disability (to separate responses about 'Need for assistance' that are related to ageing, long term health condition, or other) and include options for responses where a person who has a disability, without needing assistance, can provide a response.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐ Need for assistance

☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)

☒ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Persons with a disability

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

By understanding Australia's disabled population, planning and provision of adequate services can be coordinated in a sufficient and inclusive manner. It will inform more intensive research on how to prevent certain disabilities from occurring in the first place.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Enhanced data assists in addressing social inclusion for those with a disability to ensure they have the best opportunities to enjoy life and do well in society, particularly the opportunity to:

- Participate in society through employment and access to services
- Connect with family, friends and the local community
- Deal with personal crises (e.g., ill health), and;
- Be heard (four domains of social inclusion, Australian Government, 2010).

Data is required at small geographic areas to ensure people are provided with these opportunities within their local communities.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The City of Casey is concerned that the questions currently included in the Census are not easily understood or answered by respondents in order to accurately determine rates of disability. The City of Casey's recommendations seek to improve the collection of this information, consistent with the

recognised definition of disability from the SDAC.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposed changes will provide greater inclusivity and clarity for those with a disability (as defined by the SDAC) to provide a response.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Collection of this information is consistent with enabling people with a disability to be socially included.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

SDAC is a sample survey and there is currently inconsistency on how information is collected between the Census and SDAC survey. In order to understand the population of Australia with a disability to the local level, it is recommended that questions within the Census are refined to gain greater accuracy of results.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 742856224

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Centre for Health Equity, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

One question about gender identity (separate to sex) would provide a more meaningful understanding of transgender/gender minority prevalence in Australia. Currently, our capacity to understand the social, economic, and health disparities experienced by this group is limited by our poor identification of gender diverse people.

Policy reform and increased research is greatly needed to reduce marginalisation of transgender and gender minority Australians; efforts in both these areas would be greatly enhanced by including a question on gender identity in the census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

There is growing recognition that data on gender minorities is needed. Gender identity is “each person’s deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned to them at birth”(Yogyakarta Principles 2006). Those whose gender identity is aligned with their birth assigned sex are referred to as ‘cisgender’. People whose birth assigned sex does not correspond to their gender identity are referred to as ‘transgender’(Pega, Reisner et al. 2017). It is widely recognised that

transgender people face stigma, discrimination and experience significant health disadvantage (Reisner, Poteat et al. 2016). However there is currently no prevalence data of gender identity in Australia – this lack of population data hinders understanding of these vulnerable groups. This information is vital both for research purposes, but also to support policy, planning, and programs designed to meet the needs of transgender populations.

Collection of this data will support policy development as well as research. We know that transgender people face considerable stigma and discrimination, poor physical and mental health outcomes, higher rates of suicide, lower life expectancy, and are more likely to experience homelessness than the general population. Asking questions about gender identity in the census would give policy makers information about transgender groups including sociodemographic characteristics such as their age distribution, as well as their spatial distribution. Combined with the other information collected in the census, this information could provide the ability to monitor the social, economic and health outcomes of transgender people.

Evidence about the health and social disparities of transgender populations comes largely from overseas. What little data is available in Australia has come from small, non-representative samples. Collecting gender identity data in the census will provide more meaningful prevalence estimates for Australia and enable future linkages with other datasets, thereby greatly expanding our understanding of health and social disparities in these marginalised populations. It will also represent an important step toward increasing visibility of gender diverse Australians and fulfilling their rights as citizens.

Pega, F., S. L. Reisner, R. L. Sell and J. F. Veale (2017). "Transgender health: New Zealand's innovative statistical standard for gender identity." *American Journal of Public Health* 107(2): 217-221.

Reisner, S. L., T. Poteat, J. Keatley, M. Cabral, T. Mothopeng, E. Dunham, C. E. Holland, R. Max and S. D. Baral (2016). "Global health burden and needs of transgender populations: a review." *The Lancet* 388(10042): 412-436.

Yogyakarta Principles (2006). *Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. I. Yogyakarta.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While accurate data about the size of the transgender population does not exist, it is estimated that 0.3-0.5% of the worldwide population identify as transgender (Reisner, Poteat et al. 2016) (although this may be an underestimate). Such low prevalence makes it difficult for most surveys to glean meaningful results from gender identity questions – regardless of how robust and well-delivered the measures. The small population size of transgender populations is indeed the purported reason for the elision of gender identity measures from routine surveys. The census offers the opportunity to provide the high-quality data on gender identity that is critically needed to understand the needs of transgender people.

Furthermore, no other survey has enough information on socio-demographic and economic characteristics to make valid comparisons between transgender and cisgender populations. The census also has extensive information on all household members, something which is not available in other surveys but which could provide important contextual information on the lives and needs of transgender populations.

Reisner, S. L., T. Poteat, J. Keatley, M. Cabral, T. Mothopeng, E. Dunham, C. E. Holland, R. Max and S. D. Baral (2016). "Global health burden and needs of transgender populations: a review." *The Lancet* 388(10042): 412-436.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

International best practice guidelines promote a two-question approach to measuring sex and gender identity that includes sex at birth and current gender identity (GenIUSS Group 2014, Pega, Reisner et al. 2017). Given that sex already has an allocated question on the Australian census, the extra burden on respondents imposed by our recommended single additional question is minimal. The question would be presented in a similar format to 'sex', and will therefore be answered quickly and easily.

Australians are accustomed to answering questions about sex or gender in surveys (and in everyday contexts). While it is less common to be questioned about sex and gender simultaneously, there is evidence that people do not have difficulty answering two questions on sex/gender instead of one. Moreover, when response categories include additional options to the traditional binary (i.e. male/female, man/woman or boy/girl), respondents understand these questions and, with few exceptions, readily provide answers (GenIUSS Group 2014, Pega, Reisner et al. 2017, Ellis, Virgile et al. 2018).

Ellis, R., M. Virgile, J. L. Holzberd, D. V. Nelson, J. Edgar, P. Phipps and R. Kaplan (2018). Assessing the Feasibility of Asking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Cognitive Interviews. Washington, D.C. , Office of Survey Methods Research, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

GenIUSS Group, T. (2014). Best practices for asking questions to identify transgender and other gender minority respondents on population-based surveys. J. L. Herman. Los Angeles, The Williams Institute.

Pega, F., S. L. Reisner, R. L. Sell and J. F. Veale (2017). "Transgender health: New Zealand's innovative statistical standard for gender identity." *American Journal of Public Health* 107(2): 217-221.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Evidence from the United States and New Zealand suggests that gender identity would likely be acceptable to Australian Census respondents (GenIUSS Group 2014, Pega, Reisner et al. 2017, Ellis, Virgile et al. 2018). In the 2016 pilot of the extended 'sex' question in the Australian Census, it was evident that gender nonconforming Australians desire alternatives to a simple 'male/female' binary option for sex.

In 2016, the US Department of Labor sponsored research to assess the feasibility and acceptability of asking gender identity questions in an employment survey and via proxy reporting (in which one person responds for a whole household) (Ellis, Virgile et al. 2018). Extensive cognitive testing demonstrated that asking a two-part question with 'sex at birth' and 'current gender identity' components is acceptable to respondents.

There is potential for some culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups to have specific cultural sensitivities or differences in conceptualising gender/sex (Ellis, Virgile et al. 2018). Indigenous communities also have understandings of gender and ways of identifying that may differ from the non-Indigenous majority (Pega, Reisner et al. 2017). These considerations must be taken into account when developing gender identity questions for the Australian census.

Challenges around intrusiveness of questions or accuracy of responses (to the extent that one's professed gender identity can be deemed 'inaccurate') can be mitigated through community consultation and cognitive testing in the Australian population. Advocacy organisations who represent trans and gender diverse Australians, such as Transgender Victoria, Sisters & Brothers NT, and Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council, should be included in this process.

Ellis, R., M. Virgile, J. L. Holzberd, D. V. Nelson, J. Edgar, P. Phipps and R. Kaplan (2018). Assessing the Feasibility of Asking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Cognitive Interviews. Washington, D.C. , Office of Survey Methods Research, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

GenIUSS Group, T. (2014). Best practices for asking questions to identify transgender and other gender minority respondents on population-based surveys. J. L. Herman. Los Angeles, The Williams Institute.

Pega, F., S. L. Reisner, R. L. Sell and J. F. Veale (2017). "Transgender health: New Zealand's innovative statistical standard for gender identity." American

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Adding a question about gender identity does not present any coding or processing difficulties that differ from those that accompany collecting data on sex. The ABS has already trialled a more extensive 'sex' question and a two-question approach is not likely to add further complexity; in fact it may simplify some processes given that the two questions would be administered to all census participants and not just those who requested it be asked (as was the case with the extended 'sex' questions in 2016).

Many United States nationwide surveys already include questions to identify transgender and gender nonconforming individuals; these include the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the Youth Risk Behaviour Surveillance System (YRBS), and the National Inmate Survey (NIS) (GenIUSS Group 2014).

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is increasing recognition of the importance of this topic, and the right to inclusion of transgender people. This reflects a paradigm shift for transgender people from a disease-based model (in which transgender was regarded as a mental health disorder) to more of an identity based model (Reisner, Poteat et al. 2016). It is further recognised that transgender people have been

understudied by research, and underserved by policy and programs. The inclusion of gender-identity measures will assist efforts to identify and meet the needs transgender people.

Reisner, S. L., T. Poteat, J. Keatley, M. Cabral, T. Mothopeng, E. Dunham, C. E. Holland, R. Max and S. D. Baral (2016). "Global health burden and needs of transgender populations: a review." *The Lancet* 388(10042): 412-436.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is currently no gender identity data in Australia. The lack of population prevalence, and other demographic data of transgender within Australia severely impedes understanding of the experiences and needs of gender minorities, as well as the impact of stigma and prejudice on the life outcomes of those gender minorities. Furthermore, lack of adequate data also reduces the capacity of government and civil society programs designed to meet the needs of gender minorities.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 275189021

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests additional ways in which age related data can be presented.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Date of birth or age
- ☐ Children ever born
- ☐ Other/don't know

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It would be useful for age-related data to be provided in both individual years and in age cohorts that are reflective of life stages. In particular, for children's ages, service providers would find it useful for the data to reflect school ages as this would assist with planning for both childcare centres and schools. The suggested age breakdown for children is: 0-5 years, 5-12 years, 12-18 years.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Child care centres, preschools and schools need to be provided locally across Australia.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it would be easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data would be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely to remain

relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is unlikely that comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 933420891

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission relates to the need for data capture on the number of informal care placements in Australia. At present, data on the number of children and young people not living with at least one of their birth, step or adopted parents (referred to as being in 'out-of-home care') is limited to those who have come into contact with state and territory Child Protection systems and therefore become subject to a care and protection order.

As the peak body for Victoria's children and family services, the Centre knows from regular consultation with our member agencies in contact with informal care families that a large proportion of children and young people not living with at least one of their birth, step or adopted parents have never come into contact with Child Protection. They are never subject to a care and protection order and therefore unaccounted for in government decision making on policy and expenditure on child and family services and out-of-home care (OOHC). Our agencies are increasingly limited in the resources they can allocate to informal care families as government funding only reflects the number of children and young people in care placements who are on care and protection orders and

the responsibility of the Secretary. We know from regular consultations with our member agencies that informal care families often face significant poverty and unmet financial and non-financial support needs.

We believe there is a significant gap in knowledge of the varied composition of many of Australia's families and this leaves children, young people and families who are entitled to additional government support invisible to policy makers. The 2021 Census could address this gap in data by including a question in the 'Relationships in household' section pertaining to informal carer relationships. The Census already asks if any children who are under 15 years and present in the house are foster children, but many non-parent relative carers of children do not consider themselves to be foster parents and would not identify themselves as so on the Census. The Census also asks if there are grandchildren or otherwise related children present, but does not determine if the adult-child relationship implicit there is also one of primary carer and child. There is a need to determine if any child under 15 or dependent student present in the house lives there without the presence of a birth, step or adopted parent.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships
- ☒ Marital status
- ☒ Persons temporarily absent on Census night
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

At present, there is no means of determining the number of Australia's children and young people who are not on a statutory care order administered by state or territory child protective services, but they are primarily in the care of somebody other than a birth, step or adopted parent. We know from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data that the rate of children and young people receiving child

protection services, on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care is the highest it has ever been, having increased every year from 2012, in every state and territory. This increase in child protective services intervention is occurring despite the threshold for the level of risk required before intervention can occur also increasing, meaning that Australia has increasing numbers of families with multiple, complex needs. Children and young people in the child protection services system are only a part of the picture however, because we know from consulting with child and family services agencies that there are significant numbers of 'informal' care families - grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings, other relatives and sometimes unrelated, concerned adults - taking on primary care responsibility for children, without the intervention and assistance of child protection and government funding.

For the purpose of policy development, planning and monitoring, it is crucial that state and territory human services departments have an accurate grasp on the number of informal care families that are missed by funding. Child protection services operate at capacity, with stretched resources and high staff turnover. Child and family services face tough funding constraints in the face of increasingly complex clients and cases. For states and territory governments, negotiating higher rates of federal funding that can then be passed on to child and family services and child protection will require them to demonstrate that large numbers of carer families are going without funding support.

There are children and young people not in the care of a birth, step or adopted parent, or on a formal foster placement who may have complex needs and trauma and are not in contact with services and government support that they are entitled to. Article 19(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), of which Australia is a signed party, clearly states that protective measures for children should include social programs and necessary support for all children and those who have care of the child. As informal care families remain an under-recognised cohort of Australian families, they are not entitled to the same social security benefits and government supports as natural, step, adopted or formal foster care families. This lack of recognition, in turn, is failing significant numbers of Australia's children's rights under the UNCRC.

If Census data was able to reflect high numbers of informal care families present across the country that are unaccounted for in policy and funding, this would allow federal, state and territory governments the opportunity to reassess the resources and strategies allocated to child and family services, welfare and social security and plan more effectively for current and future demand.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Whilst we know that informal care families occur in all population groups, states and territories, for particular population groups, the need to accurately enumerate informal care families is pressing. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are significantly over represented in child protection systems across Australia and are therefore likely to over-represent within the cohort of informal care families. Both the federal and state and territory governments require accurate information and a clear picture of the demographics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population groups in order to develop culturally-appropriate and responsive policies that address the impacts of inter-generational trauma and on-going structural inequality.

The value of collecting Census data on informal care families would be complemented by existing data collected by the Census on geographic location, household income and education levels. Services that interact with informal care families and existing research inform our understanding that informal care families are more likely to be in poverty and receiving inadequate support. It would be helpful to have this correlation acknowledged by Census data so that policies can be put forward to address this significant issue.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Collecting data on informal care families can be achieved through the existing section that asks about relationships within households. A question/s can be asked regarding the exact relationship between every child and adult present, and whether any adults (15+) living at a property have primary care responsibility for any of the children under the age of 15 who are not a natural, step or adopted children of their own, or on a formal foster placement, and no natural, step or adopted parents of that child live there either.

Respondents are likely to know when children under the age of 15 in their household are not their natural, step or adopted children and not on a formal foster care placement.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Census respondents are currently asked to detail their household make-up and the relationships of those present. A question regarding informal care relationships is not likely to be considered more intrusive than what is currently present and respondents are likely able to identify when a child that they primarily care for is not their natural, step, adopted or formal foster child.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The altering of the household relationships questions to identify informal carer relationships will not require multiple response categories. It may require more than one question (i.e. - a question regarding a primary care relationship between an adult and a child who is not their natural, step, adopted or formal foster child and a question that identifies the biological relationship if there is one, or non-biological if that is the case) . However, it will not require lengthy instruction or explanation, as respondents are already accustomed to explaining the relationships between people present in a household.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As mentioned previously in the introduction to this submission, the numbers of children and young people in contact with child protection systems throughout Australia and on statutory care and protection orders keeps increasing year-on-year. It is reasonable to assume (although policy makers and researchers can not know for sure without the data) that the numbers of informal care families and arrangements is similarly increasing. The topic of informal carers, and the challenges they face in receiving financial and non-financial support whilst not being recognised as a statutory carer, will not only remain relevant in coming years, but will likely gain traction.

Census data that provides time series estimates on informal care households will form a vital complement to the existing collation on statutory care placements that assists federal, state and territory governments to plan for services and evaluate the effectiveness of policy.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no data sources currently in existence that provide consistent estimates of Australia's informal care families. Given the federalist system and the large presence of hundreds, if not thousands, of community service organisations, schools and health services that have contact with these families, any existing data on informal care families is dis-aggregated and there is no effective means to aggregate it.

Furthermore, not all informal care families access services or identify the primary care status of the relationships in their household. Enumeration of populations through service delivery inherently under-estimates prevalence and need.

The Census is the only practicable manner of collating this data.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 931068480

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests questions relating to health matters.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The ability to track the prevalence of particular health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and the like, and to identify those spatially and link them to particular community or cultural groups would be helpful in terms of service

delivery. This type of data would also provide a useful evidence base to advocate for particular specialisations in different Health and Education Precincts in various locations across Australia.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Local and National data is important for health related issues.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it would be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is considered that some people could consider health related questions intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that some types of health data could be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the authors of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 348732754

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests a question about the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is suggested that it would be worthwhile asking a question about individual and household participation in the National Disability Insurance Scheme so that spatially based information can be collated and potentially used to identify areas of greatest need both at local and National levels.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data about the NDIS is required at both local and National levels and could be cross-correlated with other Census data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it could be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is considered that some members of the community may find collection of this data intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data would be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely that this need will remain relevant and potentially become more important in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the authors of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is/or will be collected via other sources.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 804882776

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Transgender Victoria

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Sex and gender

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Trans and gender diverse (TGD) people face hugely disproportionate health outcomes (directly linked to discrimination faced). This flows on with effects on housing, education, welfare, alcohol and other substances etc. The more evidence there is of numbers for such a small group facing a huge burden the more onus there will be for governments to initiate change for the better.

We note this survey from September 2017 regarding young TGD as just one example. <https://www.telethonkids.org.au/our-research/brain-and-behaviour/mental-health-and-youth/youth-mental-health/trans-pathways/>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The baseless idea that TGD people are low in numbers or even non-existent becomes a vicious cycle without numbers. Collecting the numbers would help break out of that cycle.

The ability of the census to collect data by state/territory and metropolitan/regional/rural and via electorate would give information assisting those TGD people who may be isolated geographically especially in regional and rural areas.

We state here that the “voluntary approach” re gender identity other than male or male as adopted in the 2016 census is not appropriate and made it nearly impossible to complete questions about gender identity included in the 2016 census. Any questions about gender identity must be part of the actual census as provided to all households in line with the gender identity attribute in the Sex Discrimination Act and Sex and gender guidelines.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Questions on gender need to have the following options in order to reach us:

Male;

female;

other (please specify)

prefer not to specify.

Our experience tells us this will work and those whose gender meets societal

expectations (referred to as cisgender) will tick male or female without further thought.

To capture further information we would request a further question.

What sex were you assigned at birth:

Male;

female;

other (please specify)

prefer not to specify.

As a compromise we would settle for:

Male

female

other

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/transgender-issues/exploring-international-priorities-best-practices-for-collecting-data-on-gender-minorities/>
The report of this meeting gives some valuable information about the value of data on gender minorities as well as methodology.

“A two-step measure, however, asks survey participants to provide both their sex assigned at birth and their current gender identity. Comparing responses to these two questions, analysts can identify those whose gender identity is different from their sex assigned at birth. Current research is helping to refine the two-step measure in regard to the specific gender identity terminology used, the ordering of the two questions, and the ways in which the measure can be modified for different data collection modes.”
“The recommendation of a two-step measure received a high level of attention in the discussion. Participants specifically considered the applicability of a two-step measure such as the one recommended for use in the United States by the GenIUSS group. One participant noted that single-item measures of gender identity do not accurately capture gender minorities and that the current body of research indicates that single-item measures significantly undercount gender minority populations compared to two-step measures.There was

informal consensus that it was appropriate to recommend a two-step measure as a part of a process-based best practices guide”

This global overview indicates that ABS will not be alone in collecting stats about TGD people. Commentary directly related to census in NZ, Nepal, India, Uruguay and Canada is underlined. I would specifically include these quotes in the submission to ABS.

“Asia and the Pacific

In 2015, Statistics New Zealand released the Statistical Standard for Gender Identity. This

new standard added the term “gender diverse,” alongside “male” and “female,” to the current

classification of gender identity for statistical purposes in New Zealand. This standard was the first in the world.

In Nepal, individuals are permitted to register a third gender designation on citizenship

documents and in the national census.

In India, a third gender was recognized by the Supreme Court, and this has also allowed for

government-issued IDs and other documents to recognize a third gender designation.

Europe

At the regional level, the European Union is engaged in collecting data about gender minorities.

In 2012, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights conducted a survey of lesbian,

gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) adults in member states and used a single gender identity

question with multiple answer options (such as, transsexual, transgender, cross dresser, queer,

and others) to identify gender minority respondents.

In the United Kingdom, the National Health Service England and Public Health England are

examining gender identity questions for employees and health care users. The Equality and

Human Rights Commission, in 2012, tested questions to determine how many individuals would

be covered by the protected characteristic of “gender reassignment” under the Equality Act of

2010.

In the Netherlands, the Netherlands Institute for Social Research, which conducts large-scale surveys on social and cultural issues in the country, is currently interested in collecting data on the living arrangements of LGBT individuals. In 2016, using data from five representative surveys, the first LGBT monitor was developed to collect information on the life experiences of LGBT people and public opinions in the general population toward LGBT individuals. The monitor includes a section about transgender individuals.

Latin America

Uruguay, in 2016, started a national census for transgender persons, led by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Data from transgender citizens are collected through an online platform and direct outreach at MSD offices.

EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES & BEST PRACTICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA ABOUT GENDER MINORITIES | 8

In Brazil, data about gender minorities is collected in a number of different ways. Mandatory reporting of data from individuals diagnosed as HIV positive includes data from transgender individuals, and reforms are being considered to distinguish transgender women from men who have sex with men (MSM) in the data. Data are also maintained about gender identity notification to police and health services providers under specific circumstances. The use of official and social names on the federal health insurance card and by federal and state institutions are also permitted, potentially providing additional sources of data.

North America

In the United States of America, a number of federal, state, and local government agencies are leading efforts to collect data about residents' gender identity. At the local level, departments of health from large urban areas have begun collecting these data. In New York, the New York City Community Health Survey includes a two-step measure, which asks sex

assigned at birth and current gender identity. There are also efforts within the San Francisco Department of Public Health to collect data about gender minorities. In the state of California, legislation was passed in 2015 that mandated that several state human services agencies collect gender identity and sexual orientation data. However, there are not specific guidelines, no timelines were launched, and specific implementation is not clear. The California Health Interview Survey ran a successful pilot of potential gender identity questions, and in 2015 added a two-step gender identity measure.

At the national level, the US Office of Management and Budget led an inter-agency effort to study gender identity data collection for implementation in federal surveys. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) now requires one funding program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, to provide information about transgender status in its program services reports. HHS has also required, through its meaningful use of electronic health records programs, that sexual orientation and gender identity be collected through electronic health records that are certified through the program. There are also a number of federal surveys that collect data about gender minorities. Some states include a single-item transgender status question in administering the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. Additional states have designed their own gender identity questions. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) survey, the youth version of the BRFSS, has an optional gender expression measure, which is designed to assess gender non-conformity by assessing respondents' masculinity and femininity. The US National Inmate Survey employs a single-item gender identity measure that allows people to identify as male, female, or transgender. The US National Crime Victimization Survey included a two-step gender identity measure in the 2016 survey. While many of these efforts include data collection through self-reporting, there is also research underway on the use of proxy reporting that would allow an individual in a household to respond to a survey's gender identity measure for other members of that household. Proxy reporting is typically used in the Decennial Census, the American Community Survey, and the Current Population Survey.

EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES & BEST PRACTICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA ABOUT GENDER MINORITIES | 9

In Canada, for the 2016 Census, Statistics Canada implemented a procedure allowing respondents to leave the census sex question as blank and to provide a written comment about their gender identity. Statistics Canada made a public commitment to analyze and release a report about those written comments. This information will feed in to the proposed round of consultation with stakeholders and experts about gender identity. A task force within Statistics Canada will be directly responsible for identifying and recommending options for measuring gender identity for Statistics Canada's social surveys. Statistics Canada is beginning a process to expand sex/gender options for the 2021 Census. A task force has been organized at Statistics Canada to help manage this task. It is expected to result in a change not just to the census, but to all the surveys Statistics Canada administers (e.g. the Canadian Community Health Survey and the General Social Survey). The Canadian Human Rights Commission has commissioned a mapping of all of the locations in which gender is encoded on federal documents or federal databases and how this information is shared.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Our approach as outlined in Q3 negates any possible concerns as those not affected can still answer the question as they always have.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Over the last decade research has shown more TGD people disclosing, especially younger.

The figures in brackets show numbers of participants, date of publication, age range and percentage identifying as other than male or female. We believe these figures to be self-evident in response to this section.

Telethon youth Trans Pathways

<https://www.telethonkids.org.au/our-research/brain-and-behaviour/mental-health-and-youth/youth-mental-health/trans-pathways/> (859, September 2017, 14-25, 48.6%)

First National Trans Mental Health Study

https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/research-project-files/bw0288_the-first-australian-national-trans-mental-health-study---summary-of-results.pdf?sfvrsn=2 (946, February 2015, 18+. 25%)

From Blues to Rainbows

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/research-project-files/bw0268-from-blues-to-rainbows-report-final-report.pdf?sfvrsn=2> (189, September 2014, 14-25, 33%)

Tranznation

https://www.glhv.org.au/sites/default/files/Tranznation_Report.pdf (253, 2007, 18-73)

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We do not believe such data is collected elsewhere in Australia.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 231765968

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission relates to additional questions regarding income.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒

☐ Self employed - number of employees

☐ Occupation

☐ Industry of employment

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As part of tracking individual and household income sources, it is suggested that questions relating to other sources of income could be added. It would be useful to track Government payments to individuals and households so that a spatial analysis of benefit recipients could be undertaken and increases and decreases in the number of persons receiving benefits could be tracked and compared over time. This could be useful for service providers and for local Councils to assess potential areas of need within their communities.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Income data is useful at both the local and National levels and the ability to cross-correlate income data with other Census data is useful in understanding

communities and spatial patterns and needs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it could be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is considered that some people may consider the topic intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data would be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the authors of the submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 261957478

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Homelessness NSW

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The importance of homelessness data. As a peak body working to end homelessness we greatly appreciate the detail available from the Census on homelessness.

In particular we appreciate the operational groups of homelessness.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- ☒ Structure and types of dwellings
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Housing costs
- ☐ Number of bedrooms
- ☒ Internet access
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Homelessness in Australia is increasing. Ending homelessness is doable, but requires a commitment from all levels of government.

We have a dearth of data on the enormity of the issue. The ABS Census is a definitive source of data on this issue.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Homelessness is a nationwide issue. As such we need data from the nation. We know that homelessness in indigenous communities is invariably higher than non-indigenous communities so ensuring that this is measured as accurately as possible is vital.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is problematic as homelessness data is surmised from a Census on housing. Despite this the data is highly valued.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As a peak charged with influencing government policy regarding homelessness we speak to many people who are currently or have in the past experienced homelessness. We are yet to find one that does not agree with this data being collated and made public.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Compared with the cost of leaving people homeless the cost of ascertaining the level of homelessness is immaterial.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As homelessness increased dramatically between the 2011 and 2016 Census we would say yes.

It was also instructive to see differing results across the nation as different

jurisdictions addressed the issue differently. The quality of the data allows advocates for ending homelessness to highlight successful programs.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

None exist.

Speaking to colleagues from other countries they are impressed with the depth and quality of the ABS Homelessness data.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 326976252

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests that additional information relating to education in early childhood years should be collected via the Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☒ Highest non-school qualification

☐



Other/unknown

If other please specify

Child care and pre school and other early learning

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It would be useful to include a question about persons within a household attending childcare, preschool or undertaking other forms of early childhood learning. This data is useful at both local and National levels.

In addition, and as also stated under the topic of population, it would be useful for age related data about children to be broken down into categories that correlate with childcare centre/preschool and school age groups. The suggested age breakdown for children is: 0-5 years, 5-12 years, 12-18 years.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is a need for data relating to childcare, preschool and other early learning attendance at both local and National levels.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it would be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data would be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the author of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 144038522

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests additional questions that could be asked in relation to housing.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- ☒ Structure and types of dwellings
- ☒ Homelessness
- ☒ Housing costs
- ☒

☐ Number of bedrooms

☐ Internet access

☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Car Parking Spaces - Provision and Useage

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is suggested that the following questions should be added to the questions about housing:

- What type of internet access is available at this dwelling?

This question would assist in identifying levels of access and areas of limited connectivity both locally and Nationally.

- How many car parking spaces are specifically allocated for the dwelling?
- How many of these car parking spaces are used by the permanent residents of the dwelling?

These questions would assist in understanding the changing patterns of car usage on a spatial basis both locally and Nationally.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Internet coverage and car parking are issues of relevance to small population and geographic areas as well as larger ones. This data could be cross-correlated with other Census data to provide some very interesting insights into how people in different areas live and how this changes over time.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that this data would be relatively easy to collect via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topics are not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data could be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on these topics and the importance of these topics is likely to increase in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the authors of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on these topics is collected via other sources.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 533600701

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests the collection of additional data relating to the location of childcare, preschools, schools, tertiary and other education attended by individuals/ household members.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☒ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐



Other/unknown

If other please specify

Attendance at childcare, preschool or other early learning opportunities

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is suggested that the following details should be sought about location of individual and household activities to assist in tracking movement patterns:

- Address/suburb of any childcare or preschool facilities attended by individuals within the household.
- Address/suburb of any primary or secondary school attended by individuals within the household.
- Address/suburb of any tertiary institutions or places of further education attended by individuals within the household.

This data could assist with planning for roads, public transport networks and public transport servicing decisions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data about how individuals and households move between home and places of care and learning is equally as important as data on home and work locations.

This data is useful at local and broader levels for transport planning and to identify areas where certain services and/facilities are lacking.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it would be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is considered that some people may consider this topic intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data would be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely to remain relevant and even increase in importance in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the author of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 686889152

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests that additional data relating to individual and household travel patterns be collected as part of the Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Mode, time and duration of travel to care, education and work

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It is suggested that the questions relating to transport be amended to support the suggested changes to questions about location so that the data can be matched. Additional questions should be asked relating to:

- Mode of travel to childcare and/or preschool.
- Mode of travel to primary or secondary school.
- Mode of travel to tertiary institutions or other places of further education.
- Commencement time of travel for each purpose.
- Duration of travel for each purpose.

In addition, the response choices should be widened to allow for the combination of walking with other transport for journey to work/care/education. It would also be very useful to know the time/distance walked as part of journey to work/care/education from a health planning perspective and from a transport perspective. From a health perspective, this information could assist in understanding the obesity epidemic, particularly as it relates to children. From a transport perspective, this information could assist in understanding start and finish times and therefore reducing peak transport network loads.

Acknowledging ride-share as a mode/part of a multi-mode travel option would also be useful.

It would also be interesting to understand where and how frequently journey to work/care/education trips are combined – for example it would be useful to understand how a household setting out together for their daily journey in a car operates - to drop children at childcare and school, an older child or adult at a public transport station and the ultimate destination of any remaining passengers and the driver.

Also, from a spatial equity perspective, it would be useful to collect information on the direct road user charges (i.e. tolls) that people are paying as part of their journeys to work/care/education.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Local and National data is important for spatial planning and understanding and for transport planning.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it would be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is suggested that some people could find travel related questions intrusive, offensive or controversial but that most people would probably accept the need to collect this type of data.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that most of the suggested data could be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data relating to regular individual and household travel and it is likely that this data will not only remain relevant, but also become more important, in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the authors of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 450422786

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Intersex Human Rights Australia (IHRA)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The current schema of sex and gender classification conflates sex and gender. Within the current concept structure the sex classification is de facto a gender classification. Further, the creation of 'x' category as a third sex option is inappropriate and damaging for intersex people because it assumes that intersex people are not male or female. It will fail to accurately identify intersex people as a cohort. We recommend that a separate question be included to allow intersex people to provide accurate information.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Yes, information about intersex population is important for legislative purposes and to develop public policy and programs across a range of domains, including health, human rights, etc.

Please see submission uploaded on IHRA letterhead.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Please see uploaded submission

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Please see uploaded submission

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Please see uploaded submission

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Please see uploaded submission

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Please see uploaded submission

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Please see uploaded submission

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This submission does not propose any new topics for the census. Rather, it comments on the accuracy and effectiveness of the current sex and gender classifications.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKZ7-5.docx](#)



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 515357544

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Include unanswered questions Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee
- Local Government Interface Social and Community Planning Network

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission contains proposed variables, descriptions and criteria responses as relevant to the disability and carers topic.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The Census currently measures the number of people with a profound or severe disability (core activity need for assistance). People with a profound or severe disability are defined as those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.

New categories should include: profound or severe core activity limitation, moderate core activity limitation, mild core activity limitation, schooling or employment restriction, no restriction.

In the context of changes to the NDIS, having an accurate count of all people with access requirements in the municipality assists Council's with the development of plans and policies regarding appropriate and accessible infrastructure, and with service delivery. Using detailed Census data the distribution of people with disability across the municipality would be better understood. This in turn can inform Council's prioritisation of work to indicate where the greatest accessibility need is. This information would also enhance Council's ability to support under resourced local NDIS service providers, such as non-for-profits, with the provision of demographic information appropriate to their service needs.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on disability naturally results in small population groups which makes the use of surveys at the State or Greater Capital City level inaccurate when extrapolating to the LGA level or below. A Census would be able to accurately count all people with disability in all areas, as well as for particular demographics such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Census provides an ideal opportunity to collect more detailed data on disability and demographic groups in conjunction with the potential for spatial analysis based on the SA1 structure that the Census is based on.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data on this topic is already collected in the Census. The proposed expansion is unlikely to inhibit respondents' understanding of the topic. Because it is about the respondents' own characteristics they are also likely to know the answer and will be able to answer easily and quickly.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question will not be more intrusive than the existing core activity limitation is currently. Respondents who are willing and able to answer the pre-existing question should also be able to answer its expanded version.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By limiting the answers to only a small number of additional categories, the increased cost and time processing is minimised. Explanations of categories can be drawn from the existing Survey of Disability and Carers, thereby further limiting the additional cost to the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is likely to remain relevant in the future as people with disability continue to need appropriate services and infrastructure. Tracking this group over time through a detailed Census count might reveal trends that are otherwise not picked up.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia defines disability as

any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months. The survey differentiates between those who have long-term health conditions that limit their activities (that is, those with disability) and those who have long-term conditions without restrictions and limitations. This information is gathered at the State level. Further delineation is required for local level planning.

The Census measures the number of people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age. This does not include all people with accessibility needs which is essential to local planning and service delivery.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 999765409

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

University of Melbourne

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Carers Australia
Centre for Community Child Health and
Cerebral Palsy Alliance
House with No Steps
National Disability Services
Public Service Research Group at University of New South Wales, Canberra
The Royal Children's Hospital
Scope Australia
Summer Foundation
The Tipping Foundation
VALID
Youth Disability Advocacy Service

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

One question about whether or not a person is a participant of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) would greatly enhance our capacity to understand the impact of the NDIS on a broad range of social, economic and health outcomes for people with disability and families and carers and would provide the most comprehensive evidence yet about NDIS participants and the rest of the disabled and non-disabled population.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Participant of National Disability Insurance Scheme

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a significant policy reform and a \$22 billion investment. The effectiveness of the NDIS affects all Australians. The lack of data about who is an NDIS participant hampers the accumulation of a high-quality evidence base about how to improve the NDIS. This information would give policy makers information about how NDIS participants and disabled non-NDIS participants, and their families, are faring in terms of outcomes such as education, housing and employment. This monitoring of outcomes for NDIS participants and non-participants could also be very usefully extended to all census measures. Combined with the other information collected on disability, the information on whether a respondent is an NDIS participant would provide information on the uptake of the NDIS across different population groups and geographic areas in Australia.

This information is also important for research. By collecting this information, a range of 'natural experiments' to measure the impact of the NDIS on a range of outcomes could be undertaken. For example, by researchers could match census respondents with disability who are not participants with those who are NDIS participants and compare outcomes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Whole of population data is essential because no other surveys, including the Survey of Disability, Ageing, and Carers (SDAC), will have enough numbers to look specifically at NDIS participants. It is important that we are able to drill down to small groups (e.g. ATSI, educational status, language spoken at home, rural/regional/remote) and at small area level. The NDIS is managed across different regions so it is critical to understand what is happening within and between these different regions. It is also important to recognise that the State-based disability systems which preceded the NDIS were all different and so the paths to a single national scheme will have different challenges. Furthermore, no other survey has enough information on socio-demographic and economic characteristics to make valid comparisons between disability (participants and non-participants) and the general population. The census also has extensive information on all household members, something which is not available in other surveys.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This question would be easy to answer; either “yes” or “no” and any participant in the NDIS will easily be able to self-identify their position.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

We don't believe this question is intrusive or likely to be offensive.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Given that the question is simple we do not anticipate it would significantly impact on costs, however it will need to be asked in relation to all household members.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Monitoring the impact of the scheme through comparing outcomes over time in a range of socio-demographic and economic outcomes is critical to inform future improvements to the Scheme. It will also enable the assessment of how refinements to the scheme affect outcomes in the future. The NDIS is a permanent reform to the delivery of disability services and supports and will remain highly relevant in its own right and through its relationship with mainstream service systems, such as health and education, which have universal service obligations.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

At the moment, there is no way to identify NDIS participants in large routine data other than that held by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The NDIA has not made NDIS data available to others including the ABS, other statutory agencies, state and territory governments, or researchers despite recommendations from the Productivity Commission that this data is released (Productivity Commission, 2018). Recommendation 13.3 states:

"The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) should engage stakeholders on how data access will be operationalised. By July 2018, the NDIA should issue a statement outlining the organisation's goals for data sharing and intended timeline for operationalising data sharing by the NDIA."

The best option would be to link the NDIS data to the Census and other administrative and survey data as this would give a whole-of-population data. It would also provide much better information on disability as well as rich data on social, economic, educational and health outcomes that the NDIS hopes to improve. The potential for high quality evaluation of the Scheme, would be greatly enhanced if this were to happen. Rigorous evaluation of the Schemes outcomes will identify what does and what does not work, providing an evidence-base that informs future reforms and enables sustainability of the NDIS.

Further, a linked disability dataset is likely to attract some of the best researcher in the world, because the NDIS whole of population data base is unique.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

One of the letters of support from partner organisations attached.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KEG-XK BK-1.docx](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 568893932

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new variable regarding mobility aids.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

In the context of changes to the NDIS, Council having an accurate count of all people with access requirements in the municipality assists with the development of plans and policies regarding appropriate and accessible infrastructure and with service delivery. Using detailed Census data the distribution of people with disability across the municipality would be better understood. This in turn can inform Council's prioritisation of work to indicate where the greatest accessibility need is.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on disability naturally results in small population groups which makes the

use of surveys at the State or Greater Capital City level inaccurate when extrapolating to the LGA level or below. A Census would be able to accurately count all people with disability in all areas, as well as for particular demographics such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Census provides an ideal opportunity to collect more detailed data on disability and particular demographic groups in conjunction with the potential for spatial analysis based on the SA1 structure that the Census is based on.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data on this topic is already collected in the Census. The proposed expansion is unlikely to inhibit respondents' understanding of the topic. Because it is about the respondents' own characteristics they are also likely to know the answer and will be able to answer easily and quickly.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question will not be more intrusive than the existing core activity limitation is currently. Respondents who are willing and able to answer the pre-existing question should also be able to answer its expanded version.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By limiting the answers to only a small number of additional categories, the increased cost and time processing is minimised. Explanations of categories can be drawn from the existing Survey of Disability and Carers, thereby further limiting the additional cost to the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is likely to remain relevant in the future as people with disability continue to need services and infrastructure. Tracking this group over time through a detailed Census count might reveal trends that are otherwise not picked up.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia defines disability as any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months. The survey differentiates between those who have long-term health conditions that limit their activities (that is, those with disability) and those who have long-term conditions without restrictions and limitations. This information is gathered at the State level. Further delineation is required for local level planning.

The Census measures the number of people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and

communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age. This does not include all people with accessibility needs which is essential to local planning and service delivery.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This information identifies physical access barriers to services and infrastructure. Examples of mobility aids should be included in any related question so that respondents are clear as to what this is referring to.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 698206397

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The high-level aim of the feedback is to collect more detailed educational factors that improve student outcomes, program and policy development, and performance monitoring.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☐ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☐ Highest year of schooling
- ☐ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐



Other/unknown

If other please specify

Online survey design

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The following two topics are listed to support policy development, planning and program monitoring.

Intent of Education Qualifications

The Census currently includes questions on highest year of primary or secondary education completed and highest non-school qualification. However, while this information remains valuable, legislation and regulations governing the kinds of education and training and the legal entities that can provide education and training is changing.

As this change takes place the applicability of questions such as 'highest' qualifications obtained is somewhat diminished.

Our organisation is wishing to move to having access to data that looks at recent engagement in an educational setting, and the intent of the population to undertake further education and training in the future. This is to collect recent data on the gap between the population's access to formal education services, and informal education settings. For example say a person who obtained a PhD 20 years ago, but no longer works in that field of expertise, but has obtained more recent lower level qualifications.

Further, data covering access to education and training outside the ASCED, including forms of education defined as 'cultural transmission', is becoming more relevant to policy.

We also recommend that data about educational aspiration, motivation and intent to participate in learning in the next 12 months would be valuable for universal services planning and to increase the policy makers understanding of unmet demand for educational services to support lifelong learning aspirations of the community

Wellbeing

It would be valuable for program design and policy development in the education context to collect data on children's and parental wellbeing.
<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/child-student-wellbeing-strategy/>

A robust measure of population-wide wellbeing in the census or surveys would be valuable to support and inform evidence-based decision making.

It would be valuable to determine population engagement with allied health support service/s eg social worker, Occupational Therapist etc in previous 12 months. This would then assist with supply and demand research, and also support systemic delivery of required services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The additional education and wellbeing data would be valuable at national and local levels to enable national policy development and performance monitoring, but to support local program implementation..

We suspect the demand for services is unevenly distributed across regions, and therefore whole of population data would assist in meeting both local and national needs.

The data would then be beneficial when combined with all the other demographic datasets from household characteristics data sets.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Our organisation believes these additional datasets can fit these criteria for inclusion future census.

Furthermore, in preparation for preparing this submission, we understand the ABS can provide expert advise on these questions relating to our proposals, due to their survey design, and work with international colleagues considering similar topics.

In particular we offer the following information relating to our proposal.

Intent of Education Qualifications

We recommend that Census 2021 include questions that produce data on the most recent education and training attempted and completed, and on household members' intention to participate in an education program outside of any requirement to meet the conditions of the workplace or a statutory commitment.

The formulation and placement of simple questions that can elicit this data, we suggest, should be developed in light of contemporary education policy that aims to maintain an education system that promotes lifelong learning and which can identify the mode of delivery of an education or training program, the extent to which it is self-directed, and give coverage of forms of education and training that fall outside the ASCED.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Education engagement and attainment questions are currently collected, so the population is used to questions on this topic.

Wellbeing would need to be carefully researched, trialled and likely need a communication strategy to build confidence with the public.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Census Online opportunities.

Can we be advised if additional questions can be asked for households with educational-aged (Education and Care, School, VET and University) people? If so, could investigate family/child intentions, well-being and some other risk and protective factor questions (maternal mental health, literacy levels, education value judgements, participation barriers). (As outlined in the

submission specifically)

How long is a reasonable expectation for households to complete the survey (completing the census seems quick and short when completed online, and hence are people happy to answer more questions?)

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As more lifelong learning and risk and protective factors of wellbeing are understood, these topics are likely to increase in public interest.

Time series data would be valuable to determine the success of population-wide initiatives and other competing changes at national and local levels for research purposes and program monitoring.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The data might be collected in ABS surveys, but would be subject to very large error rates when matched to small geographies and other population demographics, for example Tasmanian Indigenous cohorts.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 913088527

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new variable regarding the number of persons with a disability in household.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

In the context of changes to the NDIS, Council having an accurate count of all people with access requirements in the municipality assists with the development of plans and policies regarding appropriate and accessible infrastructure and with service delivery. Using detailed Census data the distribution of people with disability across the municipality would be better understood. This in turn can inform Council's prioritisation of work to indicate where the greatest accessibility need is.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on disability naturally results in small population groups which makes the use of surveys at the State or Greater Capital City level inaccurate when extrapolating to the LGA level or below. A Census would be able to accurately count all people with disability in all areas, as well as for particular demographics such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Census provides an ideal opportunity to collect more detailed data on disability and particular demographic groups in conjunction with the potential for spatial analysis based on the SA1 structure that the Census is based on.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data on this topic is already collected in the Census. The proposed expansion is unlikely to inhibit respondents' understanding of the topic. Because it is about the respondents' own characteristics they are also likely to know the answer and will be able to answer easily and quickly.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question will not be more intrusive than the existing core activity limitation is currently. Respondents who are willing and able to answer the pre-existing question should also be able to answer its expanded version.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By limiting the answers to only a small number of additional categories, the increased cost and time processing is minimised. Explanations of categories can be drawn from the existing Survey of Disability and Carers, thereby further limiting the additional cost to the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is likely to remain relevant in the future as people with disability continue to need services and infrastructure. Tracking this group over time through a detailed Census count might reveal trends that are otherwise not picked up.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia defines disability as any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months. The survey differentiates between those who have long-term health conditions that limit their activities (that is, those with disability) and those who have long-term conditions without restrictions and limitations. This information is gathered at the State level. Further delineation is required for local level planning.

The Census measures the number of people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and

communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age. This does not include all people with accessibility needs which is essential to local planning and service delivery.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This question will support information about the categories of disability status by number of people in the household.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 967243093

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Public health information development

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Our submission addresses the need for a question in the 2021 Census on limiting long term health conditions within the Australian population

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

According to the National Health Survey 2014-15, 1 in every 2 Australians have at least one prominent chronic condition and 3 in every 5 Australians aged 65 years and over, had two or more chronic conditions. People with these conditions are characterised as having limiting long term health conditions (LLTHC). Co-ordination of care enhancing the quality of life for those people with LLTHC is a major national challenge. Addressing this challenge requires

highly accurate Information on LLTHCs which is currently lacking across the Australian health landscape, an indicator that has been collected historically in countries like the United Kingdom for over 20 years.

In these countries and potentially for Australia, census responses to questions on LLTHC published at the small area scale have played an important role in the assessment of health, particularly, identifying areas with vulnerable people. A question(s) on LLTHC can provide a nationally consistent measure that identifies the status of people living with and without a LLTHC and potentially its ongoing surveillance and monitoring over time.

This indicator is of national importance for current and future policy and planning of health services, as it indirectly identifies the need for localised health services, since people living with a LLTHC are more likely to use health and care services. Quantification of this data is therefore essential as a key variable to inform a proactive approach for the provision and allocation of limited healthcare resources, matching the current and future needs of the community and ensuring equality in service delivery in a universal health care system.

As our population ages, there will be rising demands placed on the health system, these people are more likely to be living with a limiting long term health condition. The topic of LLTHC is vital question for the 2021 Census as planning ahead is key for people with these conditions. The creation of an evidence base, focussing on LLTHC, for each community will enable a reorientation of strategic outcomes and focus priorities to increase the quality of life for these people.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Currently, no data exists at the population level on the status of LLTHC in the Australian population. This is vital information the status of LLTHC to provide the equitable delivery of services to the Australian community.

A question(s) on LLTHC will provide a nationally consistent indicator on long term health status. Variation in the definitions on health status among other health surveys, make comparisons difficult. A consistent indicator across

Australia will enable like to like comparison.

Data on LLTHC will provide a valuable accuracy assessment tool which is currently unavailable to assess the accuracy of estimates provided by other health related sample surveys. PHIDU provides modelled estimates of specific conditions, however, no information source are available at a comparative scale to assess the under or over reporting of these estimates across Australia. Planning and policy decision making requires robust information which is available within past, current and future census. The cross sectional analysis of the proposed LLTHC with other associated Census variables will provide a very robust evidence base enabling a greater understanding of factors, such as mental health and social wellbeing associated with living with a LLTHC. Other information provided at the small area level available from the Social Health Atlas of Australia (available at PHIDU) would also complement this new data generating additional insights. This type of analysis has been done historically in the UK using their LLTHC responses.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Past censuses in other countries, such as the UK, have asked their respondents questions on LLTHC since 1991. The long term archiving of these responses, for over 20 years, demonstrates that the topic can be accurately collected from self-reported household respondents.

For example, in the 2011 UK Census one question is asked on LLTHC and its response structure is based on a graded response to a limitation. Question 23 states

‘Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (include problems related to old-age)’, with three response options (Yes, limited a lot; Yes, limited a little; No).

This simple description of what contributes to be a LLTHC means that the respondent can accurately state that he/she has a LLTHC. However, as this question is not cause specific, other less limiting causes will be included.

Expansion of the question to include a list of causes may prove beneficial, i.e. 'Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months. Tick all that apply.

By expanding the question, the degree of single and multiple long term conditions can be quantified. This type of question considers the epidemiology of LLTHC, where it is widely regarded that men and women have different trajectories of self-assessed health as they age, associated with changes in employment or socioeconomic status.

While this type of question will increase the accuracy and specifics of some responses, it will also increase the complexity of the question making it harder for other households to complete it accurately. However, as the LLTHC are of an ongoing nature in their management, it would suggest that the household as a whole, would fairly accurately identify the specific cause of the LLTHC.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The general definition of a limiting long term health condition is any condition that cannot be cured but its symptoms can usually be controlled with treatment. Examples are arthritis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and high blood pressure. This simple definition is fairly unambiguous making it easy for the respondents to understand. For a question like that posed in the English census, a 3 phase, yes or no structure, makes it simple to answer as there is only one way to respond.

A list of conditions under this general question for LLTHC would increase the complexity. However, individual or household knowledge of the management of the condition will mean that the topic would be acceptable for easy data volunteering by respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic requires one question, if the UK question is adapted to the Australian context, requiring an answer of three possibilities - Yes, limited a lot; Yes, limited a little; No. If specific causes are required, tick boxes for choosing a range of specific conditions can be added to the above general question. This type of structure is common in question design, however, it does add additional complexity for the respondent in terms of selecting the correct description of their LLTHC.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given Australia's ageing population and increasing investment in the health sector, data will be needed in the future to guide investment decisions and policy. Creation of a whole of population longitudinal dataset into the future will greatly enhance the precision of policy and investment management decisions across Australia.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Current surveys such as the National Health Survey only report the results from a sample of the Australian population. While modelled estimates of LLTHC can be derived from this survey, PHIDU contracts the ABS to do this for several conditions, the estimates in certain areas have large confidence intervals highlighting the large uncertainty in the estimates to inform decision making. Additionally, when published PHIDU has found that these estimates are often misconstrued as direct estimates rather than modelled even though a thorough description is provided. Furthermore, the NHS provides no longitudinal follow-up on the progression of the LLTHC, as the respondents are taken from a randomised stratified sample. Other surveys such as the 45 and Up Study or state based health surveillance systems do provide a longitudinal aspect but are age-limited or provide a limited sample of randomly selected respondents each year designed to understand the state health as a whole rather than much needed small area estimates. The above surveys also suffer from being under sampled in remote areas thus not giving us a real representation of the status of LLTHC in these areas.

Direct estimates of LLTHC or specific conditions from the 2021 Census will alleviate these issues.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 378470075

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new education and training variable regarding the year in which most recent qualification was attained.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☒ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

This indicate may apply across several of those listed above.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This would allow governments at all levels to track people's education over time in order to see whether people are upskilling, re-skilling or adding skills. Such information can be used to determine whether people upskill, re-skill or add skills in response to developments in local labour markets, and informs policy development around skills gaps, employment outcomes and the characteristics of those who seek to upskill, re-skill or add skills.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This information is needed at the small geographical area level to highlight where people who upskill, re-skill or add skills live. This might highlight areas of disadvantage. In addition, the potential for cross-referencing data with demographic characteristics that the Census collects already would allow for a better picture of the characteristics of those who do and do not upskill, re-skill and add skills.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The phrasing of the question, when in the context of other education-related questions, should not pose problems to respondents. The recall problem is likely to be small as respondents will have a clear understanding of their own educational history.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This question is not more sensitive than any of the other education questions. Respondents' ability to answer accurately should depend only on their ability to recall a significant life event.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The response options here can be a drop-down list of years. This should not cause a significant increase in processing cost or time, and should not require a lengthy explanation.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data will reveal the extent to which people adapt to changing labour market conditions, which might inform the development of policy and incentives. With constantly changing labour market conditions and a turn towards knowledge-based and technology-supported economy the relevance of education will remain strong

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Currently the Census lists only the field of study associated with the highest qualification.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Year that the person completed their most recent qualification: If they are currently studying it is listed as 'ongoing' rather than the current year or as not applicable.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 43467111

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new education and training variable regarding the 'field of study' for 'type of educational institution being attended'

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Attendance at an educational institution

☐

Engagement in employment, education and training

☐

Highest year of schooling

☐

Highest non-school qualification

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This will give a better snapshot of what upskilling, re-skilling or adding skills course respondents are doing.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This will provide information about what people are training for and whether the course is value to their job or to assist them in getting a job.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data on this topic is already accurately collected in the Census with regards to the 'highest level of educational attainment'. The accuracy of collecting the data will be retained if the same question format is used but applied to 'type of educational institution being attended'.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Data on this topic is already collected in the Census with regards to the 'highest level of educational attainment' and is therefore considered acceptable to respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Data on this topic is already efficiently collected in the Census with regards to the 'highest level of educational attainment'. The efficiency of collecting the data will be retained if the same question format is used but applied to 'type of educational institution being attended'.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data will reveal the extent to which people adapt to changing labour market conditions, which might inform the development of policy and incentives. With constantly changing labour market conditions and a turn towards knowledge-based and technology-supported economy the relevance of education will remain strong.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Currently the Census only records the 'field of study' for respondent's 'highest level of educational attainment' and not 'type of educational institution being attended'.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The Census already records the 'type of educational institution being attended' which includes technical or further educational institution (including TAFE Colleges) and university or other tertiary institution. However, the Census only records the 'field of study' for respondent's 'highest level of educational attainment'. Therefore, there is no way of identifying the 'field of study' for respondent's 'type of educational institution being attended'.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 375954421

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes an amendment to a households and families variable regarding other family and unpacking the 'Other family' category in the FMCF Family Composition indicator, particularly regarding the intergenerational nature of some households.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Household and family relationships

☒

Marital status

☒

Persons temporarily absent on Census night

☒

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

More information about the "other families" category in the existing Census Family Composition indicator (FMCF) is needed to identify the make-up of such households. Household composition is linked to housing affordability and child care needs among others. Additional detail would support an understanding of who lives in these households, informing planning support services and infrastructure such as educational institutions, hospitals and social services. It is also useful for understanding the adequacy and availability of housing.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Because "other families" are a small subset of family composition, additional information from the Census is needed to accurately identify the composition of this family composition subgroup. Their spatial distribution may reveal particular trends. Cross referencing this information with existing indicators could highlight particular characteristics associated with such households, e.g. cultural trends.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This data is already collected in the Census. There will be no change to the respondents, only to how the data is analysed.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This data is already collected in the Census. There will be no change to the respondents, only to how the data is analysed.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Expanding the analysis to make available more categories within the "other family" household group does not significantly increase processing time or cost. Only a small number of additional subcategories would already be illuminating.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given trends in housing affordability, income inequality and wage stagnation, the continued importance of tracking its effects are essential in identifying who is most affected.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This question is already in the Census. The proposition here is to expand its analysis.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 553920086

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a variation to a housing variable and is in regarding couch-surfing and identifying couch-surfers, being those who temporarily reside at the residence of an acquaintance, friend or relative.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☒ Structure and types of dwellings

☐ Homelessness

☒ Housing costs

☒ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This would add a dimension to the usual residence and homelessness statistics as it presents an easy way to identify couch-surfers. In conjunction with other demographic characteristics, such identification is essential as it allows for the identification of people who are at risk of homelessness. This information could inform planning for community housing and targeted policy development.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The population of couch-surfers and homeless people is small but an important area of public policy. Data on this small population at the most detailed geographic level possible is essential for appropriate planning and policy development, particularly when combined with demographic characteristics that the Census has available already.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The suggestion to add a single response option will improve the clarity of the 'where do you usually live' question by making it more relevant to the subgroup of couch-surfers. It will be easy and quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question is not controversial, intrusive or offensive as it relates to a respondent's objective and current living situation. An additional checkbox to identify whether a respondent is couch-surfing is something respondents will likely be willing to answer truthfully.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This does not require a lengthy explanation of what couch-surfing is. The addition of a single check-box item should not constitute a significant increase in processing time or cost.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given trends in housing affordability, income inequality and wage stagnation, the continued importance of tracking its effects are essential in identifying who is most affected.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census is used to estimate homelessness. The proposed question will add to existing efforts in identifying additional relevant information.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 182181744

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new housing variable regarding financial assistance for rent/mortgage, specifically whether the person has needed financial assistance with their rent or mortgage in the past year.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☒ Structure and types of dwellings

☒ Homelessness

☐ Housing costs

☒ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This indicator would be useful in identifying living cost stresses on those who are not receiving Centrelink payments. Currently, only anecdotal information about the broad social impact of increases in cost of living combined with flat wages growth exists. Assistance with rent or mortgage payments may provide an additional dimension to the usual rent and mortgage stress indicators developed from the Census.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The need for financial assistance is higher in some geographies than in others, and higher for certain demographic groups than for others. Identifying at the smallest geographic level where people who need financial assistance live would help target public policy or intervention programs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The suggested question is simple and asks after an event that will unlikely cause any recall problems for the respondent. A simple yes/no answer would make this easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

While seeking financial assistance is something that respondents may not readily and freely want to admit, the guarantee of confidentiality may alleviate this concern.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed question should be sufficiently clear to not need an additional explanation. Response options limited to yes/no should not increase processing cost and time significantly.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given trends in housing affordability, income inequality and wage stagnation, the continued importance of tracking its effects are essential in identifying who is most affected.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No data on informal financial assistance is available.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 797136495

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

As we become a more culturally diverse society due to the impacts of permanent and temporary migration we need to continue to expand the Census indicators in relations to cultural diversity.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Cultural diversity

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Australian citizenship
- ☒ Country of birth
- ☒ Country of birth of parents
- ☒ Year of arrival in Australia
- ☒

☐ Main language other than English spoken at home

☐ Proficiency in spoken English

☐ Ancestry

☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Visa type

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Visa type data (permanent or temporary) is essential for policy development, planning and research purposes. As in many other OECD countries, the scale of temporary migration in Australia continues to grow. At any given time there are up to 600,000 temporary entrants in Australia (McMahon, Moreton, Luisi, 2010) dwarfing the annual migration intake which sits around 190,000. The main temporary visa categories are skilled, students and working holiday makers. Tourists fall under a different visa category. While the Department of Home Affairs does publish limited data on these arrivals, population Census data is needed to track and monitor these temporary residents for researchers and policy makers with a significant proportion of temporary entrants becoming permanent residents after a period. This stronger evidence base is one of the recommendations in the recent inquiry Migrant Intake into Australia by the Productivity Commission (Productivity Commission, 2016).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of this is through combining temporary resident data with other characteristics including:

- Sex and gender
- Households and families
- Income and work
- Unpaid work and care
- Education and training
- Disability and carers
- Housing
- Location
- Transport
- Cultural diversity

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

There are hundreds of temporary visas. However, visas can be categorised according to lay understandings and be easily answered by respondents. Do you have permanent residency in Australia could be a threshold question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

There would need to be some level of assurance that the data was not being shared with the Department of Home Affairs.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As above

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic of temporary residents is likely to continue to be relevant as time goes on. More and more people are migrating temporarily as part of the globalisation of business and education.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The only alternative is Department of Home Affairs reports.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Tourists should be specifically categorised in this data collection.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 20659596

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new housing variable regarding financial assistance (utilities), specifically whether the respondent has had any issues paying for utilities bills in the past year.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☒ Structure and types of dwellings

☒ Homelessness

☐ Housing costs

☒ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This indicator would be useful in identifying living cost stresses on those who are not receiving Centrelink payments. Currently, , only anecdotal information about the broad social impact of increases in cost of living combined with flat wages growth exists. Information on problems with utilities bills payments may provide an additional dimension to the usual rent and mortgage stress indicators developed from the Census.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The need for financial assistance is higher in some geographies than in others, and higher for certain demographic groups than for others. Identifying at the smallest geographic level where people who need financial assistance live would help target public policy or intervention programs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The suggested question is simple and asks after an event that will unlikely cause any recall problems for the respondent. A simple yes/no answer would make this easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

While seeking financial assistance is something that respondents may not readily and freely want to admit, the guarantee of confidentiality may alleviate this concern.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed question should be sufficiently clear to not need an additional explanation. Response options limited to yes/no should not increase processing cost and time significantly.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given trends in housing affordability, income inequality and wage stagnation, the continued importance of tracking its effects are essential in identifying who is most affected.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No data on informal financial assistance is available.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 460857888

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new housing variable regarding rough sleeper's area of origin to gain additional information about the usual residence/place of origin of rough sleepers.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Housing

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒ Type of tenure (nature of occupancy)

☒ Structure and types of dwellings

☐ Homelessness

☒ Housing costs

☒ Number of bedrooms

☒ Internet access

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Taken from the rough sleeper enumeration form (the Special Short Form), this question would enable more insight into where rough sleepers come from. The enumeration statistics may bias the CBD and nearby areas and do not sufficiently illuminate where rough sleepers come from (at the LGA or suburb level). This knowledge could be used to identify trends in particular areas that may then be addressed through appropriate regionally targeted social housing policy or other types of policy.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The population of couch-surfers and homeless people is small but an important area of public police. Data on this small population at the most detailed geographic level possible is essential for appropriate planning and policy development, particularly when combined with demographic characteristics that the Census has available already.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question is easy enough for respondents to understand that they are asked about the suburb that they usually live in as opposed to wherever they are filling in the Census. This should be a quick and easy answer for respondents.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Asking where the respondent is from should not be a controversial topic for rough sleepers when specified that they're asked about suburb or LGA. This group of respondents likely has a good recollection of where they normally live or are from.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This question does require recording locations, of which there are many. The benefit of more accurately measuring homelessness across Victoria vastly outweighs this downside. The ABS already has a list of geographies so the coding should not constitute a new set of processes and should not impose a large additional cost.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given trends in housing affordability, income inequality and wage stagnation, the continued importance of tracking its effects are essential in identifying who is most affected.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census is used to estimate homelessness. The proposed question will add to existing efforts in identifying additional relevant information.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1015222551

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new income and work variable regarding past employment status. The person's employment status five years ago and one year ago (applying the same categories for employment status in the latest Census - fulltime employed, part-time employed, away from work etc).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☐ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☒ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

While a comparison of current and previous Census results allows for an analysis of how employment status changes over time, the inclusion of a measure to track employment mobility might be essential in highlighting the way in which people move between industries and occupations, and the way in which people upskill. Occupation and industry of employment can be used to plan education and other services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census provides an opportunity to identify the demographic characteristics of those who do and do not engage in employment mobility, as well as where they live. Both factors may highlight trends that would otherwise not be picked up.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic of employment is in the Census already and an additional question that asks about the respondent's past employment status should be easily understood - much like the 'where did you live five years ago?' question. It is a simple question which respondents will have the answer to, even if it does require a respondent to think back to 1 and 5 years ago.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic is already in the Census. Asking a further question about employment should not result in an unwillingness to respond.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Adding this question duplicates an existing question and should impose processing time and cost no greater than the existing question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data will reveal the extent to which people adapt to changing labour market conditions, which might inform the development of policy and incentives. With constantly changing labour market conditions and a turn towards knowledge-based and technology-supported economy tracking how people adapt is essential to understanding what policy responses are needed.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No datasets exist that track this.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1063098764

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new income and work variable regarding past industry of employment. For example, the person's industry of employment five years ago and one year ago, applying the same Census Industry of Employment list as in the 2016 Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☐ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

While a comparison of current and previous Census results allows for an analysis of how employment status changes over time, the inclusion of a measure to track employment mobility might be essential in highlighting the way in which people move between industries and occupations, and the way in which people upskill. Occupation and industry of employment can be used to plan education and other services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census provides an opportunity to identify the demographic characteristics of those who do and do not engage in employment mobility, as well as where they live. Both factors may highlight trends that would otherwise not be picked up.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic of employment is in the Census already and an additional question that asks about the respondent's past employment status should be easily understood - much like the 'where did you live five years ago?' question. It is a simple question which respondents will have the answer to, even if it does require a respondent to think back to 1 and 5 years ago.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic is already in the Census. Asking a further question about employment should not result in an unwillingness to respond.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Adding this question duplicates an existing question and should impose processing time and cost no greater than the existing question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data will reveal the extent to which people adapt to changing labour market conditions, which might inform the development of policy and incentives. With constantly changing labour market conditions and a turn towards knowledge-based and technology-supported economy tracking how people adapt is essential to understanding what policy responses are needed.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No known publicly available datasets exist that track this.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 490674263

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

As cultural diversity increases in Australia we need expanded data sets to monitor and track this diversity in key areas.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

cultural diversity

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This data is needed for policy development, planning and program monitoring and for research purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Currently it is very difficult to estimate the prevalence of disability among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in the Australian population as the Census only collects one relevant demographic variable: Country of Birth.

We strongly recommend also adding Main Language Other than English Spoken at Home be added so that cross-tabulations of disability and these two cultural diversity variables are readily accessible to researchers and policy

makers.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Main Language Other than English is already collected in the Census but is not readily accessible to policy makers and programs.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

na as already collected

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

na as already collected but not readily accessible

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As people from CALD backgrounds make up about 20% of the population the need for this data is likely to grow into the future with the expansion of the NDIS and other programs to ensure greater social and economic participation by people with disability.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Some additional cultural diversity data in relation to disability is collected in the 3-yearly SDAC.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 243794606

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new income and work variable regarding past occupation. E.g. The person's occupation five years ago and one year ago, applying the same Census Occupation categories as in the 2016 Census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☐ Occupation
- ☒ Industry of employment
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

While a comparison of current and previous Census results allows for an analysis of how employment status changes over time, the inclusion of a measure to track employment mobility might be essential in highlighting the way in which people move between industries and occupations, and the way in which people upskill. Occupation and industry of employment can be used to plan education and other services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census provides an opportunity to identify the demographic characteristics of those who do and do not engage in employment mobility, as well as where they live. Both factors may highlight trends that would otherwise not be picked up.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic of employment is in the Census already and an additional question that asks about the respondent's past employment status should be easily understood - much like the 'where did you live five years ago?' question. It is a simple question which respondents will have the answer to, even if it does require a respondent to think back to 1 and 5 years ago.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic is already in the Census. Asking a further question about employment should not result in an unwillingness to respond.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Adding this question duplicates an existing question and should impose processing time and cost no greater than the existing question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data will reveal the extent to which people adapt to changing labour market conditions, which might inform the development of policy and incentives. With constantly changing labour market conditions and a turn towards knowledge-based and technology-supported economy tracking how people adapt is essential to understanding what policy responses are needed.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No known publicly available datasets exist that track this.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 988261010

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department for Health and Wellbeing

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Consideration of a health related question. The inclusion of a long term health condition question would be advantageous to understand the exact prevalence of chronic conditions across all areas of Australia, and how it relates to other demographic factors. The inclusion of a discrimination/racism question would also be of value.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Chronic conditions are the leading cause of illness, disability and death in Australia (AIHW). Data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring. Small area analysis of health data (not currently available through other publications) is critical to understanding the health status and service needs of all Australians.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed for small population groups as well as small geographic areas. The comprehensive nature of the census is preferable to current health collections, as groups in remote and very remote regions are often overlooked. Furthermore, current surveys seek to identify single persons in the household whereas the census will be able to capture this information of all people (adults and children) in the same household.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Various standardised questions already exist in regards to assessing long term chronic conditions of respondents. Chronic diseases are often discussed in 8 major groups; arthritis, asthma, back pain, cancer, CVD, COPD, diabetes and mental health conditions. These common conditions would be readily

identifiable of respondents who have these conditions. A simple question asking the respondent to identify if they have any of these conditions (tick box, multiple response) would allow users of the data to determine levels of chronic disease, as well as the socio-demographic factors of people with multiple chronic conditions.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

8 response categories as described previously. If this is not favourable, a yes/no question could exist if respondents was asked if they had any chronic condition which may include.....(list conditions), or how many of those conditions they had (0,1, 2+)

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data would be vital to understand the growing burden of chronic disease in the community. The topic will most definitely remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Although this data is collected in the National Health Survey, the continuity of the data is not secure, and does not reach all areas of Australia meaning small area analysis is difficult.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 675779404

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I would like to see the addition of a health question in the Census on self rated health. Small area data of this type would be beneficial to the geographic analysis of disparities in health and wellbeing, which could inform research, policy and targeted service provision. Rising health costs are an issue of national importance and better data to inform our understanding of health and wellbeing of populations at the small area level would be beneficial to better understanding health need and implementing smarter more targeted and efficient responses to those needs.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Rising health costs are a national issue and small area health data on self rated health could provide a national picture of health and wellness in the community and inform service planning and health policy. For example, providing care for our increasingly large ageing and frail population could be informed by the inclusion of this type of question.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Small area spatial analysis of population health can be used to inform health service delivery to ensure health services are accessible to the community that needs them. This type of analysis is not supported by survey data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Self rated health measures are currently used in health surveys administered by the ABS, making them validated questions ready for inclusion in the census.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is a general question that is not likely to cause offense.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Use the same question as that used for the Australian Health Survey (shown below).

SF12_Q02

In general would you say that
[your/(selected person name)'s] health is
excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Population health and wellbeing across all areas of Australia is a fundamental concern of all levels of government. Continued collection of this type of data over future censuses would facilitate the evaluation and monitoring of changes to self rated health in conjunction with changing populations, health policy and health services.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The only available data of this type is survey data which is not suitable for small area spatial analysis.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 70446095

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Include unanswered questions Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new variable regarding health, specifically eating fruit and the number of serves of fruit that the person ate in the week preceding Census day 2021, which can then be used to construct a measure of the proportion of people who meet the guidelines.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The Census currently does not collect information about health. The inclusion of information about healthy eating habits would inform targeted intervention and prevention programs.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Demographic characteristics, and age groups are , are relevant to cross-cut with healthy eating habits. Geographic pockets in terms of the lack of healthy eating may also highlight where more services or intervention programs are required. Done at the local level, small areas of disadvantage can be identified.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question would only need to clarify what is meant by a serve of fruit/vegetable. Once that is done and the frame of reference is a week preceding Census, respondents should not have issues with this question as they will likely know what they ate the week preceding Census day.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

There is potential for people to misremember or not accurately convey the information. This risk is not greater than other similar personal questions asked in the Census such as income level. It is unlikely respondents will be unwilling or apprehensive.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A drop-down box of numbers to indicate number of serves eaten is simple to implement and simple to understand so should not require a long explanation. The answering categories are number-based and pose no significant cost or time for processing.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Having a clear view of healthy eating trends over time can inform timely policy responses. Health outcomes affect the wider society so will remain a major area of interest.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey, the National Health Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey record this information at the State level, and in some cases at the Greater Capital City and municipality levels. More localised information on this is required from the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 417269365

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new variable regarding health, specifically eating vegetables. For example, the number of serves of vegetables that the person ate in the week preceding Census day 2021, which can then be used to construct a measure of the proportion of people who meet the guidelines.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The Census currently does not collect information about health. The inclusion of information about healthy eating habits would inform targeted intervention and prevention programs.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Demographic characteristics, and age groups, are relevant to cross-cut with healthy eating habits. Geographic pockets in terms of the lack of healthy eating may also highlight where more services or intervention programs are required. Done at the local level, small areas of disadvantage can be identified.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question would only need to clarify what is meant by a serve of fruit/vegetable. Once that is done and the frame of reference is a week preceding Census, respondents should not have issues with this question as they will likely know what they ate week preceding Census day.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

There is potential for people to misremember or not accurately convey the information. This risk is not greater than other similar personal questions asked in the Census such as income level. It is unlikely respondents will be unwilling or apprehensive.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A drop-down box of numbers to indicate number of serves eaten is simple to implement and simple to understand so should not require a long explanation. The answering categories are number-based and pose no significant cost or time for processing.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Having a clear view of healthy eating trends over time can inform timely policy responses. Health outcomes affect the wider society so will remain a major area of interest.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey, the National Health Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey record this information at the State level, and in some cases at the Greater Capital City level. More localised information on this is required from the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 352158184

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new health variable regarding electronic device use, specifically the time spent using electronic devices (categories of time spent) on Census day 2021.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Information on the extent to which people use electronic devices would support gaining an understanding of the demographics of those who do and do not use devices for extended periods of time, allowing for policy development aimed at particular groups for better health outcomes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Demographic characteristics such as age may help to gain a better understanding of how electronic devices are used by different demographic groups.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This question will be easily understood by respondents. Including examples electronic devices (smartphones, laptops etc.) will enhance respondents' understanding further. It is a simple question that respondents will know the answer to.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

With this question respondents may downplay their use of electronic devices. Nevertheless, this question is not more intrusive than any other current Census question so should not pose issues of unwillingness to answer.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This adds a set of categorical answers and a small explanation to illustrate what is meant by 'electronic device'. Limiting the response options to a small number of categories should assist in limiting the cost and processing time involved.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given the ubiquitousness of electronic device use and the unlikely abatement towards the future, retaining a view of trends in this behaviour, which may affect health outcomes, is essential to guiding policy regarding the stimulation of alternative activity.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey, the National Health Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey record this information at the State level, and in some cases at the Greater Capital City and municipality levels. More localised information on this is required from the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1070462371

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
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☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new health variable regarding food security, specifically whether the person was unable to afford food at any point in the past year.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This indicator would be useful in identifying living cost stresses in relation to health and food security. Information on problems with paying for food may provide a useful dimension of financial hardship and (healthy) eating. It would also assist with the provision of targeted support services close to where they are needed most.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The need for financial assistance and food support services is higher in some geographies than in others, and higher for certain demographic groups than for others. Identifying at the smallest geographic level where people who need financial assistance and food support services live would help target public policy and intervention programs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The suggested question is simple and asks after an event that will unlikely cause any recall problems for the respondent. A simple yes/no answer would make this easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

While seeking financial assistance is something that respondents may not readily and freely want to admit, the guarantee of confidentiality may alleviate this concern.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed question should be sufficiently clear to not need an additional explanation. Response options limited to yes/no should not increase processing cost and time significantly.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given trends in housing affordability, income inequality and wage stagnation, the continued importance of tracking its effects are essential in identifying who is most affected.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey, records this information at the State level, and in some cases at the Greater Capital City and municipality levels. More localised information on this is required from the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 576637250

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
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☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

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Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new health variable regarding physical activity, specifically whether the person has exercised for half an hour or more the day before.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Information on the extent to which people engage in recommended levels of daily physical activity informs policy and service provision, as well as planning for infrastructure, land use and urban design, particularly when combined with demographic characteristics

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The use of existing demographic elements from the Census would highlight trends that can be addressed by public policy and service provision. In addition, small areas with lower physical activity can be identified which is useful for local planning of recreation and sports facilities.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The proposed question refers to a recent and single day, and to an event that is easy to remember so will unlikely cause recall issues. The language and phrasing is clear for respondents to be able to easily understand the question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Performing physical activity is unlikely to be a controversial topic to respondents if posed as a yes/no question in the proposed manner.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed question should be sufficiently clear to not need a lengthy explanation, except examples of activity types. Response options limited to yes/no should not increase processing cost and time significantly.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Having a clear view of factors that influence health outcomes over time can inform timely policy and planning responses. Health outcomes affect the wider society so will remain a major area of interest.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey, the National Health Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey record this information at the State level, and in some cases at the Greater Capital City and municipality levels. More localised information on this is required from the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 795060530

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new disability and carers variable regarding type of impairment. This variable would have categories of disability status to identify the type or types of disability/disabilities a person has. Broad categories include movement, dexterity, reach and stretch, communication, thinking, vision and hearing.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

In the context of changes to the NDIS, Council having an accurate count of all people with access requirements combined with the types of requirements they have assists with the development of plans and policies regarding appropriate and accessible infrastructure, and with service delivery. Using detailed Census data the distribution of people with disability across the municipality would be better understood. This in turn can inform Council's prioritisation of work to indicate where the greatest accessibility need is. This information would also enhance Council's ability to support under resourced local NDIS service providers, such as non-for-profits, with the provision of demographic information appropriate to their service needs.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on disability naturally results in small population groups which makes the use of surveys at the State or Greater Capital City level inaccurate when extrapolating to the LGA level or below. A Census would be able to accurately count all people with disability in all areas, as well as for particular demographics such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Census provides an ideal opportunity to collect more detailed data on disability and demographic groups in conjunction with the potential for spatial analysis based on the SA1 structure that the Census is based on.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data on this topic is already collected in the Census on a superficial level. The proposed expansion is unlikely to inhibit respondents' understanding of the topic. Because it is about the respondents' own characteristics they are also likely to know the answer and will be able to answer easily and quickly. Other household members will also be aware of the type(s) of impairment.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question will not be more intrusive than the existing core activity limitation is currently. Respondents who are willing and able to answer the pre-existing question should also be able to answer its expanded version.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By limiting the answers to only a small number of additional categories, the increased cost and time processing is minimised. Explanations of categories can be drawn from the existing Survey of Disability and Carers, thereby further limiting the additional cost to the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is likely to remain relevant in the future as people with disability continue to need appropriate services and infrastructure. Tracking this group over time through a detailed Census count might reveal trends that are otherwise not picked up.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia defines disability as any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months. The survey differentiates between those who have long-term health conditions that limit their activities (that is, those with disability) and those who have long-term conditions without restrictions and limitations. This information is gathered at the State level. Further delineation is required for local level planning.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 198138832

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a variation to an an existing education and training variable. In the existing indicator for type of educational institution attending (TYPP), please include an option for 'home schooling'.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Attendance at an educational institution

☐

Engagement in employment, education and training

☐

Highest year of schooling

☐

Highest non-school qualification

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

A complete picture of how many people attend school and how they do so is missing as long as the Census does not identify people who are being home schooled. Gaining an understanding of who is home schooled and where they live would contribute to building a complete picture.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This is suspected to be a small group. Drawing accurate estimates from a survey would be difficult and not informative due to the margin of error involved.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question of what type of educational institution people are attending is already in the Census. A simple expansion of the response options should not pose additional issues.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This question is not more sensitive than any of the other education questions the Census already asks.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The response options would be increased by 1. This is not a burden on the household or the processing of Census forms.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data will reveal whether home schooling is increasing or decreasing, and whether there are particular areas where it is becoming more/less prevalent. This may inform national and State-level policies around schools.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No known publicly available sources for this data exist.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 436384560

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new health variable regarding smoking status, specifically whether the person smokes.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The Census currently does not collect information about health. The inclusion of information about smoking habits would inform targeted intervention and prevention programs.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As a major factor in the development of long term illnesses it is useful to adopt this into the Census to identify small geographic areas where smoking may be more prevalent in order to guide localised intervention programs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Given the addictive nature of smoking, recall should not be an issue. The proposed question should be easy enough for respondents to answer. Limiting response options (yes/no/prefer not to say) would be beneficial too.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Depending on whether someone else fills in a household survey on the individual's behalf, this information may not come forward accurately, particularly if people do not want to reveal this habit to others. Nevertheless, asking this question would still reveal overall trends in smoking habits.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed question should be sufficiently clear to not need an additional explanation. Response options limited to yes/no should not increase processing cost and time significantly.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Having a clear view of factors that influence health outcomes over time can inform timely policy and planning responses. Health outcomes affect the wider society so will remain a major area of interest.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey, the National Health Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey record this information at the State level, and in some cases at the Greater Capital City and municipality levels. More localised information on this is required from the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 578026096

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
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- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

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Organisation

Wyndham City Council

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Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes a new health variable regarding social isolation, specifically the extent to which people have spent time with acquaintances, friends or relatives who do not live in the same household in the week leading up to the Census date.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Social isolation impacts health and disadvantaged places have less connection. Identifying who is affected by social isolation and where they live would inform planning and delivery of services and infrastructure to prevent social isolation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The prevalence of social isolation in particular localities, might highlight opportunities for local infrastructure. Demographic characteristics of those who are socially isolated may also illuminate potential intervention and support programs.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

By specifying the question as suggested, it should be a question of recent recall of a major event. For respondents this should be an easy to interpret question, and easy to answer as well.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Respondents may feel that socialisation does not fit with the Census topics and may not be willing to answer this question. This can be resolved by an explanation of what the purpose of the question is and by reasserting the privacy guarantee.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This question may require some explanation as to what does and what does not constitute a social gathering. The resulting yes or no answers should, however, be easy to process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Having a clear view of factors that influence (mental) health outcomes over time can inform timely policy responses. Health outcomes affect the wider society so will remain a major area of interest.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Victorian Population Health Survey has the following indicators regarding the topic:

- Feeling of safety
- Feelings of trust
- Help from a volunteer organisation
- Help from family when required
- Help from friends when required
- Help from neighbours when required
- Help with are in an emergency
- Opportunity to have a say
- Volunteering

The inclusion of this information for all people through the Census is necessary for a greater understanding.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 3291326

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
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- ☒ Business
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☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes an amendment to the sex and gender question to expanding the current question (indicator SEXP) on sex to include an option for 'other'.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Greater understanding of people who do not identify as either male or female would facilitate creating inclusive services and facilities.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This is a small group of people which would be difficult to estimate accurately using surveys.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

As an expansion of the current question, which households already fill in themselves, this would not pose a need for further explanation.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is acceptable to those that the 'other' category does not apply to as there is no change to how they can identify. It is particularly acceptable to those who identify as neither male nor female.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic can be collected efficiently as it is a minor expansion of an existing question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will likely be a continued need for this data as there will always be people who identify as 'other'.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No known publicly available sources exist.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 211265987

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Wyndham City Council

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- LG Interface Social and Community Planning Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire's Health and Wellbeing Committee

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Wyndham City Council Research and Statistics team prepared a number

of submissions in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. This submission proposes an amendment to the transport variable regarding length of journey to work. Please amend the question in line with the suggestion: "The length of time it took for an employed person to travel to AND from work on the day of the Census".

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Mode of travel to work

☐

Name and address of workplace attended

☐

Number of motor vehicles

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

In the context of Plan Melbourne's 20 minute city as well as the planning of infrastructure more broadly, information on how long it takes for people to travel to work is a valuable resource for studying behaviour and local employment gaps. Information about where people work and how they get to work helps to inform the policy and planning of road infrastructure and public transportation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

With the pressures of population growth and infrastructure in growth areas, data regarding length of journey to work at the small area level will highlight opportunities for infrastructure development and opportunities for policy towards alleviating pressure on existing infrastructure. Combined with mode of transport and place of work this information could be essential for identifying detailed transport and infrastructure bottlenecks.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

When limiting the question to a single recent day it should be easy for the respondent to recall how long it took, particularly given the recurring nature of travelling to work. If given brackets of time spent this question should be easy to understand and answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Respondents should have no issue answering this question in terms of unwillingness. Potential misrepresentation of information is also not a concern as respondents with the same or similar places of origin and places of work can be compared for consistency and the detection of outliers.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By applying a set of ranges this should be easy to process. There will be fewer categories involved here than in the existing mode of transport questions. An explanation to clearly state that this question is after the combination of going to AND from work can be concise and effective.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Journey to work, in combination with location of work, have major continued implications for infrastructure, health and planning outcomes. Tracking this over time will reveal how the use of infrastructure changes over time, and how new infrastructure or changed labour market conditions affect journey to work.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This used to be gathered through the VicHealth Indicators Survey in the form of commute time taking longer than 2 hours. No current information is available even though such data is crucial for planning purposes.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 861883512

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research (NNIDR)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

That a single-item, self-report or proxy/informant report question regarding the presence of chronic diseases, including dementia and /or diagnosis of dementia, is introduced to the upcoming National Census. It is further recommended that the question is modelled on Canadian and US questions currently used in large, government-mandated population-based surveys, examples of which are provided in this submission.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Dementia

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Dementia is a leading cause of burden of disease and mortality in Australia estimated to be responsible for 99,957 years of life lost, and 13, 496 deaths in 2015 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018). In 2017 the annual cost of dementia in Australia exceeded \$14 billion dollars (Brown, Hansnata, & Anh La, 2017), with this cost expected to grow to unsustainable levels without a comprehensive National Dementia Strategy (Alzheimer's Australia, 2017). A significant component of such a strategy includes accurate data on dementia

prevalence. Currently, the best estimates of Australian figures are based on international data. In 2012 the Australian Government identified dementia as a leading health priority area. The resulting National Framework for Action on Dementia 2015-2019 provided key areas of action for primary and secondary risk reduction. Without Australian population-based prevalence data, measurable outcomes against the Framework are unattainable, affecting Australia's ability to successfully plan for the economic and social impact of the disease.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is currently no Australian population based study that collects data on rates of dementia in Australia, and the accuracy of the potential sources of data is inadequate. Death certificates indicating international criteria for causes of death have been shown to seriously under-estimate dementia prevalence. Reliability of hospital admission data has not been demonstrated, whilst MBS, PBS and Aged Care Assessment data does not effectively capture all sufferers. To date, there is no single epidemiological study that has comprehensive data on dementia prevalence, and the results of such data if it existed would not be representative of the entire Australian population due to limitations in sampling from regional, rural and remote areas.

Accurate population based data are essential for valid and reliable estimates to the prevalence of dementia, to understand the efficacy of primary and secondary risk reduction strategies and interventions, to effectively plan for future needs and services for those living with dementia and people who care for them, and to obtain reliable data to generate new understandings about dementia prevalence.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Dementia is defined as a general term describing a range of symptoms associated with decline in mental functioning affecting a person's ability to perform everyday activities (World Health Organisation, 2012). This definition has been shown to be widely recognisable in the Australian population through vignette studies (Low & Anstey, 2009), as well as dementia literacy and identification of risk factors research (Kim, Sargent Cox, & Anstey, 2015). Studies have shown that a single-item, self-report or proxy/informant report measure regarding the presence of chronic diseases, including dementia and /or diagnosis of dementia, to show good psychometric properties. For example Kappa agreement statistics between medical records and self-report of disease and diagnosis in a number of chronic diseases, particularly non-cardiac conditions, have been shown to be high (>70%) (Okura, Urban, Mahoney, Jacobsen, & Rodeheffer, 2004; Simpson et al., 2004). Of particular interest to dementia data, survey reports of Alzheimer's disease has been shown to yield higher and more accurate reporting of cases than diagnosis data or medication / PBS data (Lin et al., 2010).

Large, population-based surveys from Canada (Canada's Community Health Survey, CCHS) and the United States (US Healthy People 2020) both use self-report and proxy/informant single-item questions to obtain National dementia estimates, underlining the acceptance and reliability of capturing dementia rate data in this method. The CCHS asks "Do you have Alzheimer's disease or any other dementia" (Yes/No), and the US Healthy People 2020 question asks "Has a doctor ever told you that you had Alzheimer's disease / any type of dementia" (Yes / No). The CCHS is a Government mandated annual general survey, targeted to represent up to 96% of the population, that includes focused health topics (Statistics Canada, 2016). The survey is used to collect reliable, population level estimates on health and health status. US Healthy People 2020 is a combination of a wide range of data systems (including censuses of events and nationally representative sample surveys) that provides collective information to monitor and improve the health of Americans (Healthy People, 2018).

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Whilst there is evidence of stigma attached to dementia for both people who have been diagnosed with dementia and their carers, there is no evidence that this results in under-reporting either by self-report or through proxy / informant reports. Nationally representative surveys including questions related to dementia are widespread, including comparable countries such as Canada (e.g. CCHS), and the United States (e.g. US Health People 2020), indicating a general acceptance of dementia questions in population-based health surveys. The CCHS is used to estimate national prevalence data, whilst the US Healthy People 2020 data is used to measure focused objectives, for example, increasing the awareness of older adults' dementia diagnoses (Healthy People, 2018; Statistics Canada, 2016).

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Dementia as a significant health condition for which a diagnosis is possible is well recognized in the Australian population with research showing that identification of the symptoms, and knowledge of dementia are high (e.g. Loi & Lautenschlager, 2014; Low & Anstey, 2009). Studies have shown high sensitivity and specificity of both self- and proxy / informant reported measures of dementia, (e.g. Hendry, Quinn, Evans, & Stott, 2015; Rabin et al., 2015). Evidence also shows simple, self-report, single-item questions in a tick-box type format that ask about presence and diagnosis of chronic disease, including dementia, show high agreement with physician / medical records of diagnosis (Corser et al., 2008; Okura et al., 2004; Simpson et al., 2004).

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The high burden of dementia, in both social and economic terms, highlights the need to understand the trends of dementia prevalence over time. Evidence of change, or indeed evidence of prevalence stability, provides much needed information on the efficacy of current strategies and interventions as well as informing future directions.

Epidemiological studies in the United States, United Kingdom and some areas of Europe provide some evidence of a reduction in dementia rates (e.g. The Cognitive Functioning and Ageing Study, UK, Framingham Heart Study, US, Einstein Aging Study, US). Currently, without accurate time-series, population-based dementia prevalence data, understanding the trends of Australia's dementia rates, and efficacy of National strategies, is not possible.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While, use of single sources of data to estimate dementia prevalence has been shown to significantly underestimate prevalence (Lin et al., 2010), there is work underway to develop a national Dementia Database that aims to collate and link multiple sources of cohort and repeated cross-sectional data to estimate dementia prevalence. Nevertheless, there are limitations to these data sources as they are not based on National studies and therefore not generalizable to the whole of the Australian population. In particular, current studies are limited in accurately reflecting people living in remote, rural and regional areas. A

National Dementia Register, also currently being developed in Australia, is limited in that a formal diagnosis by type of dementia is necessary for a person to be included on the Register, with current estimates indicating that this could exclude up to 50% of prevalence, with formal diagnosis taking on average three years to achieve in Australia, from onset of symptoms

Therefore Census data would complement data from a Dementia Register and Database by capturing broader and more representative demographic characteristics. Further, Census data would provide the opportunity to triangulate agreement across data sources to increase confidence in findings.

Attachments

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 114972569

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Motor vehicle groups for travel

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Use of vehicles for other than travel to work

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed for proper inclusion of Power Two Wheeler (PTW) vehicle in

transport planning

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on PTW use both for travel to work and for recreation is essential to allow proper inclusion of scooters and motorcycles for urban planning

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household

completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Inclusion of PTW as a transport option for travel to work is long overdue and has been called for over many years. It is a simple additional sub group to be added to the Travel to work return.

A further question to ascertain transport mode(s) use for recreation would gather far more data and allows for the large section of the community who are either retired or use their leisure time for riding or driving on National, State and Council roads.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This would not be an intrusive, offensive nor controversial question for respondents.

It would be answered in the same manner as existing questions about how a respondent travels to work.

The addition of transport use for leisure would also meet the same criteria.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Addition of PTW as a mode of transport would not be an onerous task to process, and the information gained would be extremely valuable to enhance the use of a congestion relieving mode of transport; thus helping to relieve pressure on roads by encouraging the use of PTWs.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Data on PTW use to date is sketchy but has proven a constant increase in PTW take up: inclusion of these proposals would only enhance the data. Obviously it will remain relevant into the foreseeable future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no comparable data on PTW use on a National basis, which emphasises the need for inclusion in the 2021 Census.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The Leuwin Study of 2012 proves conclusively that a 10% switch from cars to PTW results in a 40% reduction in congestion. Data on PTW use nationally will be enhanced by the inclusion of PTWs as a travel option in the 2021 Census.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 483742103

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Proposed new topic - digital literacy.
Being digitally literate is increasingly fundamental in order to participate in economic and social life, particularly as more and more services are delivered on-line. Various studies have shown that certain groups may be more at risk of being left behind than others but to date, there is no single longitudinal survey instrument that measures the entire population's digital literacy. Given the existing geographic and socioeconomic data that is collected in the Census, the inclusion of digital literacy data would allow for a much more nuanced exploration of the relationships between these factors at different scales which in turn would facilitate the development of more specific and effective policies

and programs. This is particularly important in the context of the Digital Economy and extent to which the population can participate in this economy (both as potential consumers and producers).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Digital literacy

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Being digitally literate is increasingly fundamental in order to participate in economic and social life; consequently the digital literacy of the population is a matter of national importance.

The increasing push for the Commonwealth (and other levels of government) to deliver services via on-line only platforms is evident in recent policy and program developments such as the creation of the Digital Transformation Agency (previously the DTO) and associated Digital Transformation Agenda, as well as the Digital Economy Strategy, due for release in mid -2018. As noted by Chen (2017, p5) these developments are underpinned by assumptions regarding availability and affordability of connectivity, as well as digital literacy (i.e. that essentially everyone has access to connectivity and the skills to use it), that are not necessarily supported by research (e.g. ACCAN 2016, Chen 2017, Infocchange and ACCAN 2016, Rennie et al 2016, Selwyn et al 2016, Seton et al 2015, Thomas et al 2017). Collectively this body of research indicates that internet availability, accessibility, affordability, and digital literacy varies across the population. For example, there are around three million Australians who are still not online (Thomas et al, 2017 p3), and there are particular groups such as the elderly, disabled, low-income, rural and remote users, remote Indigenous communities, CALD communities and homeless people, who are particularly at risk of being left behind in an increasingly digitalised world (Chen 2017).

As recently as March this year, the Chairman of the Australian Information Industry Association and Managing Director of Business for Optus, Mr John Paitaridis, expressed concern that a lack of digital literacy was leading to a “burning platform” for Australian industries and the economy, and urged government, industry and universities to work together to address the problem (Baxendale 2018). The Australian Council of Learned Academies has also warned that Australia “lacks critical mass in ICT skills such as programming, software development, computer engineering, data management, data mining and data analytics” and that this has negative implications for future economic growth, employment and society (Williamson et al 2015, p18). Future policy and program development should be based upon a credible, robust evidence

base and good understanding of the digital literacy of the population as a whole and at a finer-grained level than is currently available (refer also remarks at C2 and C7).

It should also be noted that there is a proposal for digital literacy to be included as a Closing the Gap measure (see also response at C2 and C7). If included, it will be necessary to have a mechanism(s) in place by which progress on this measure can be monitored and reported.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Refer also remarks at C1 and C7. Only by including the whole of the population will we be truly able to gauge the digital literacy of the nation as a whole and identify those “pockets” where digital literacy is lacking. This will allow for the development of more effective, targeted programs across a range of sectors. As noted at C1, research to date suggests digital literacy may vary according to a range of socioeconomic and geographic factors but owing to the nature and scale of much of this research, it is not necessarily valid to apply these findings to the population nation-wide.

Given the existing geographic and socioeconomic data that is collected in the Census, the inclusion of digital literacy data would allow for a much more nuanced exploration of the relationships between these factors at different scales and facilitate the development of very targeted (and therefore likely to be more effective) policies and programs.

Such data might also be valuable for future Census planning, specifically the mode of collection of Census data, by facilitating the specific identification of certain geographic areas and cohorts whose digital literacy does not extend to the completion of a Census form on-line. This may allow the ABS to use its existing resources more effectively.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

If the topic adopts a self-assessment approach, then it is reasonable to assume that the household member completing the form would have a good knowledge of their own digital literacy and that of other members. Refer also response at C4.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

For most respondents it is unlikely that this topic would be considered offensive, intrusive or controversial. However there may be some people such as the elderly or some Indigenous people who would be reluctant to “self-assess” their digital literacy skills as “low” and may feel some embarrassment or a sense of shame, but this could be offset to some extent by the way in which the topic is broached on the Census form. i.e. perhaps by selecting a statement from a limited series, that most accurately represents their skill levels, couched in terms of the types of activities that they can undertake, without using terms such as “low”, “high”, “good” etc. This would limit the time taken to answer this question.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

In terms of coding and processing and costs, we are not in a position to be able to comment on these as they relate to operational matters to which we are not privy. However we do not believe that the topic would require a lengthy introduction or set of instructions, and would not necessarily need to involve a large number of response categories, if the the topic was broached in a manner that involved the household member making a single selection from a limited series of statements that most closely corresponded to the level of a household member's digital literacy.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

It cannot be assumed that digital literacy will automatically improve, nor that any improvement will be uniform across the population; in recent years for example, the digital divide between regional/remote and metropolitan areas has widened despite the introduction of the nbn, according to Thomas et al 2017, with implications for digital literacy. In today's world it is not enough to be simply "literate", one must also be digitally literate and this will continue to be

case in the future (Williamson et al 2015, p18).

We also note that the Bureau is considering ways in which the digital economy might be captured (ABS Submission on the Digital Economy: Opening up the Conversation Discussion Paper, dated 5th June 2017). We suggest that capturing the digital literacy of the population should be a critical part of measuring the Digital Economy in terms of identifying that proportion of the population who have the ability to participate in the Digital Economy. We note that in Appendix A of the submission under the heading “digital literacy measurement” there is a reference to the ABS’ Business Use of Technology Survey. It is our view that this survey cannot be used as a proxy measure of digital literacy across the population more broadly, for reasons outlined under C7 below.

Refer also to our previous comment regarding the proposal for digital literacy to be included as a Closing the Gap measure.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Currently, it appears that there is no dataset providing information regarding the digital literacy of the entire population across the nation.

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index (Thomas et al 2017) does not capture data across the entire population. Instead, it relies on a survey of 16,000 (of which less than 100 were from the NT in 2017) and does not include remote Indigenous communities. Additionally, the Index is dependent on private sector funding and it’s future in the medium and long term is not guaranteed. There is a need for consistently collected data over longer time periods in order to be able to gauge the extent of progress.

The existing question regarding internet access in the ABS’ Multipurpose Household Survey which is used to produce ABS Cat.no. 8146.0. (Household

Use of Information Technology), does not directly equate to digital literacy. A dwelling might have internet access, but not all household members will necessarily have the skills to make use of that access. By the same token, a dwelling may not have internet access but people might access the internet through other means (e.g. community hub, local library, mobile phone etc.). In a similar vein, the existing reasons for accessing the internet cannot be used as a proxy measure for digital literacy; an individual may want to access the internet for online banking but still struggle to undertake this task if their digital literacy skills are poor. In any case, the Multipurpose Household Survey does not include Indigenous people in remote communities, nor people living in non-private dwellings. The Business Use of Information Technology (ABS Cat. no. 8129.0) and Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business (ABS Cat. no. 8166.0) also only capture a restricted cohort and cannot be applied to the broader population. We also note that the 2016-17 issue of Cat. no. 8146.0 is the final release of this publication and this data will no longer be produced.

ABS Cat.no. 8153.0 (Internet Activity, Australia) only measures particular aspects of connectivity such as type of access connection, advertised download speed and volume of data downloaded, no. of mobile handsets and so on, which do not directly equate to measures of digital literacy. This survey also excludes particular sectors of the population: people who do not have internet or mobile access at home, people who are with an ISP that has less than 1,000 subscribers, as well as excluding hotels, libraries, internet café's, internet kiosks and hotspots.

Data provided by nbn, such as the NBN Wholesale Market Indicators Report and NBN Half-Yearly reports do not collect information regarding digital literacy.

ACMA's Communications Reports also do not include questions regarding digital literacy, instead focusing on the performance of carriers and carriage service providers, customer satisfaction, quality of service, and overview of the telecommunications industry performance against various regulatory obligations, codes and standards, such as the CSG. The data around type of connectivity and devices also cannot be used as proxy measures of digital literacy. In any case, the data is presented at an aggregated level, meaning that it is not possible to make comparisons between select geographic areas or cohorts (e.g. age, Indigenous status) and given the survey methodology, it is likely that some cohorts are under-represented or excluded altogether (e.g. very remote areas, Indigenous communities). We note that Focus area 3 of ACMA's Research Program 2017-18 Update relates to social and economic participation, however none of the planned projects relate to digital literacy.

This is not surprising given that digital literacy lies largely outside their regulatory mandate, although they have in the past undertaken some research around digital media literacy set within the context of its regulatory interests and consumer protection and education/awareness activities (Commonwealth of Australia 2009). Given the length of time that has elapsed and developments in telecommunications that have occurred since this work was undertaken, it is likely that this data has lost much of its applicability.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a valuable longitudinal dataset and has included questions relating to home internet access in the context of identifying potential measures of material deprivation (e.g. see the 2016 Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Selected Findings from Waves 1-14, p84-85). However, as noted in relation to the Multipurpose Household Survey, this cannot be used as a proxy for measuring digital literacy. Additionally, the HILDA survey does not capture certain cohorts/areas, for example people living in remote/sparsely settled areas of Australia and people living in non-private dwellings. Furthermore, sample size issues means that data collected from NT households must be treated with caution and these findings cannot be more broadly applied to the NT population with confidence.

Other surveys such as that undertaken by the Broadband for the Bush Alliance (B4BA) and Better Internet for Rural and Remote Australia (BIRRR) rely on self-participation (i.e. participation in the survey is optional), are smaller and more limited in scale and also do not necessarily capture certain cohorts (e.g. people in very remote Indigenous communities without internet access, homeless people) and are only conducted when funding allows, usually as “once-off” activities that rely on grant funding. As such, they lack the consistency required to facilitate valid statistical comparisons over time. Similarly, specific research such as that referred to at C1, is generally not conducted on the spatial and temporal scales required to allow for fine-grained identification and analyses across the entire population.

In the event the ABS does not take up digital literacy as a new topic, we strongly argue that the existing question regarding household access to the internet should be retained, as this appears to be the only survey which asks this question of the entire population, including those cohorts that are excluded from other surveys (e.g. HILDA, ABS Cat.no.s 8153.0, 8146.0, 8129.0) such as people in remote/very remote areas (including Indigenous communities), and people living in non-private dwellings.

These people and the organisations which represent them have a real need to be able to access an independent, credible, reliable and robust evidence base that allows them to directly demonstrate their need for improved access to telecommunications, digital literacy and so on. It is disappointing that the geographic areas and groups most in need of this assistance are (with the exception of the Census), largely excluded from other surveys that could provide them with the standard of evidence required to support grant applications (increasingly, such evidence must relate directly to their geographic area and interest group/cohort) and submissions to program and policy makers in Government, which would then perhaps result in activity(s) that would assist in overcoming disadvantage, including Closing the Gap.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

References (Non ABS Publications only)

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About RDA NT

RDA NT is an incorporated not-for-profit community-based organisation that is concerned with building partnerships and ensuring that all governments and stakeholders collaborate in developing and strengthening regional communities. RDA NT is part of a nationwide network of more than 50 RDA Committees with membership comprising local individuals who have a good understanding of the economic, environmental and social issues and priorities in their respective regions. RDA NT has identified telecommunications as the backbone underpinning the NT's economic and social development.

Given the critical role that telecommunications plays in our region, RDA NT has been active in this space for several years. We have been a member of the Broadband for the Bush Alliance (including Board membership) and supported the annual B4B Forum. We have also had input into the 2015 Regional Telecommunications Review, the Productivity Commission's Review of the TUSO and the Australian Government's Telecommunications Reform Package, Commonwealth's Digital Economy: Opening Up the Conversation Discussion paper, ACCC's Communications Market Study, current Government TUSO taskforce consultations, and the NT Government's Digital Strategy Discussion Paper. Additionally, we have also completed two significant telecommunications projects, the Digital Workplace Assessment Tool (DWAT) and the High Speed Technology Wireless Pilot. The former identified digital literacy and lack of tailored training programs as a key barrier to the digital transformation of digital workplaces in the NT.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 436671872

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Proposed new topic - Non-standard forms of employment
Reflecting increasing globalisation and technological advances, the changing nature of work has been noted by numerous researchers and policy-makers; specifically that various non-standard forms of employment are now a contemporary feature of labour markets around the world, including those in Australia. The full impacts of these changes have yet to be fully understood, but will have implications for superannuation and reliance on an aged pension, enforcing minimum conditions of work, long term wage outcomes, education and training, and workforce planning, among others. Our future understanding of Australia's labour market and economy, and the full nature and extent (and

by extension, impacts of) of non-standard forms of employment requires a sounder basis upon which to develop appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks than what currently exists. Capturing non-standard forms of employment in the Census, when combined with the existing questions around education, income, cultural diversity, gender and so on, would result in a tremendous dataset that would permit detailed fine-grained analysis of the relationships between non-standard forms of employment, education and training pathways, as well as a range of other socioeconomic and geographic factors. The ability to identify these relationships across the entire population (and in turn, areas of untapped potential) is likely to be critical in terms of ensuring our future competitiveness and economic growth.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☒ Self employed - number of employees
- ☒ Occupation
- ☒ Industry of employment
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Non-standard forms of employment

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reflecting increasing globalisation and technological advances, the changing nature of work has been noted by numerous researchers and policy-makers; specifically that various non-standard forms of employment are now a

contemporary feature of labour markets around the world, including those in Australia. The full impacts of these changes have yet to be fully understood (e.g. AIGroup Workforce Development 2016, International Labour Organisation 2016, Lewis 2017, Mooi-Reci and Wooden 2016, p1; QUT Business School 2018).

It is clear that the rise of non-standard forms of employment in Australia is not restricted to just one or two industry sectors or to a limited number of geographic areas such as Uber drivers or food couriers in the major urban areas (i.e. those in the “gig economy” that work for peer-to-peer platforms); but also those who work as consultants, free-lancers, non-employing small business owners, and individuals in the creative industries are often engaged in non-standard employment.

Given the potential medium-long term impacts of the rise of various non-standard forms of employment, for example, implications for superannuation and reliance on an aged pension, enforcing minimum conditions of work (Craston 2017), long term wage outcomes (Mooi-Reci and Wooden 2016), education and training, and workforce planning (International Labour Organisation 2016, pxxiii-xxiv), we argue that this issue is of national significance. The nature of work is changing and the notion of a job for life with a single employer/single life-long career is almost gone (Australian National University 2018, p2), yet the Census questions on income and occupation still assume this is the predominant employment model, asking specifically about an individual’s “main job” in “the last week”. This is clearly problematic for people engaged in temporary, ad hoc, casual type work where hours vary from week to week, those who work in two or more jobs, and those who are paid on an irregular basis (e.g. royalties, a consultant upon completion of a contract). As a result, we suggest that our future understanding of Australia’s labour market and economy, and the full nature and extent (and by extension, impacts of) of non-standard forms of employment requires a sounder basis upon which to develop appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Refer also response at C1 and C7. As noted above, this is an issue impacting the Australian labour market and has impacts on, amongst other things, workforce planning, current education and training models, and superannuation. Nor is the issue restricted to one or two sectors or the major urban areas, so there is a need to capture the full nature and extent of participation in non-standard employment, including at a fine-grained level across the country. A more fine-grained understanding of non-standard employment in the population may facilitate the redesign of particular policies and programs, such as the Government's recent policy announcement to crack down on the black economy, or future "work-for-the-dole" type schemes. This in turn would allow for more effective use of resources whilst at the same time avoiding perverse (unintended) consequences.

We argue that the future Censuses should consistently capture all forms of non-standard employment, including "work-for-the-dole" type schemes; the latter have been inconsistently captured by the Census (e.g. some CDP type workers were counted as being employed in the 2011 census but were considered to be unemployed in 2016 owing to changes in the way the program was structured; however in terms of measuring practical on-the-ground outcomes (participation etc), it matters not who pays this money (employer vs. Centrelink), and certainly it is our experience that participants in these programs consider themselves to be "employed".

In remote and very remote parts of Australia which have a higher proportion of Indigenous people, and where a higher proportion of land is owned by Indigenous people through land rights or native title legislation, forms of non-standard work are a key characteristic of what Altman has termed the "hybrid economy", that combines "market, state and customary sectors to enhance wellbeing and access to cash and non-cash (imputed) income" (Altman and Markham, 2018, p9). Individuals and organisations, both government and non-government who are working in the regional/community development space, require access to data that can go towards capturing the hybrid economy and what constitutes work in these contexts, so as to inform more effective policy and program development and models of service delivery; yet it is these individuals from these geographic areas that are most commonly excluded from surveys relating to work and workers in Australia (refer response at C7).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

As the topic would relate directly to the individuals' own circumstances it is anticipated that this information could be collected with a high degree of accuracy.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Questions around this topic are not likely to be particularly sensitive as existing Census questions ask about the main (primary) source of income and the proposed additional topic would simply ask about the next largest (secondary) source of income. While it is possible that some “Gig economy” workers who rely more heavily on cash-in-hand payments might have some concerns that by answering this question they’d be vulnerable to investigation through cross-agency sharing of information (regardless of assurances to the contrary by the ABS), we suggest this is probably more reflective of a distrust of government agencies resulting from well publicised breaches of data security and privacy in recent times, and therefore it is not an issue that is specific to this topic.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Regarding coding and processing and costs, we are not in a position to comment on these as they relate to operational matters to which we are not privy. However we do not believe that the topic would require a lengthy introduction nor set of instructions, and would not need to involve a large number of response categories, if the the topic was broached in a manner which simply aims to collect secondary occupation, industry, and annual estimated income from this source. We suggest annual income is more appropriate for workers in non-standard forms of employment as they may not receive income from their secondary source on a weekly/fortnightly/regular basis.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As noted at C1, numerous studies have documented the emergence and potential impacts of non-standard employment including the “gig”/sharing economy, as well as work undertaken by the ABS itself and described in the submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018 Submission to the Inquiry into the Future of Work and Workers). It is unlikely that non-standard forms of employment will disappear in the future. We suggest that there will be an

increasing need and demand for data to underpin greater understanding of the nature and extent of non-standard employment models and their potential impacts (including flow-on impacts) across the population and economy in the medium and long-term. Refer also response at C7.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We note the extensive array of products by the ABS that aim to enhance our understanding of work and workers in Australia. However many of these products (e.g. ABS Cat No.s 6333.0, 6226.0, 6227.0, 6250.0, 4913.0, 6239.0, 4235.0, 6238.0, 6324.0, 6523.0, 4441.0) exclude particular groups such as people in very remote areas and/or people in Indigenous communities and therefore do not cover/represent the entire population. Additionally, in the NT these groups form a much greater proportion of the population than in other jurisdictions, e.g. very remote households comprise about 22% of the NT population. Other products such as ABS Cat No. 6202.0, 6291.0.55.003, present data aggregated to state/territory or SA4 level, which does not allow for fine-grain nuanced regional analysis. The geographic and demographic make-up of the NT is such that the applicability of results from surveys which are undertaken in different socio-economic contexts are often limited. We also argue that those organisations working to address Indigenous socio-economic disadvantage require robust data around the economies of these communities which can then be used to inform on the policy and program development and service delivery. It is not a case whereby a one-size-fits-all measure is appropriate in terms of policy and models of service delivery; to achieve the best outcomes on the ground tailoring to a particular region's circumstances is required, and that in turn, requires a good understanding at a fine-grained level. Finally, these products all share a similar short-coming in that they still rely on the assumption that an employed person can only have one "main job".

We are aware of the work being undertaken by the ABS on the Australian Labour Market Account Experimental Estimates (ABS Cat No. 6150.0.55.001).

While this is certainly a step in the right direction (i.e. filled jobs includes main jobs and secondary jobs) we still wish to reiterate the point that measures which rely on the assumption that an employed person can only have one “main job” are not likely to fully capture the full nature and extent of non-standard forms of employment in Australia. While this Catalogue allows for macro-economic analysis it does not provide data at a fine-grained level required for nuanced analysis and regional policy development. We appreciate that in the development of new measures the ABS must take into consideration national and international standards and conventions, but we do not believe that an additional topic regarding secondary source of income (non-standard forms of employment) would necessarily constitute a breach of these standards and conventions as long as the existing question around main source of income was retained. Rather, the inclusion of the topic may also have the potential to assist the ABS in terms of addressing sources of error and the balancing that is required in the current EEALMA (Cat. 6150.0.55.001 - Labour Account Australia, Experimental Estimates). It would also provide data that would allow more accurate assessments of the size and extent of, for example, the creative industries sector (not the same as the Arts and Recreation services sector), as well as other sectors such as hospitality and transport, which have a particular reliance on non-standard forms of employment.

We are also aware that there are various ABS statistical collections based on business surveys. However these do not offer the extent of fine-grained coverage that collection as part of the Census would provide. For example, ABS Cat No.s 6302.0, 5676.0, 6306.0, 6354.0, 6348.0 exclude some industries, while ABS Cat No.s 6302.0 and 6348 exclude some non-standard forms of employment.

We also note that the definition of a business would appear to exclude organisations in the non-government, not for profit sector who nevertheless play an important role (particularly in small, regional economies) and arguably, may be more likely to utilise non-standard forms of employment. Business surveys therefore do not capture the full extent of non-standard forms of employment. Additionally, many of these appear to provide aggregate data only at industry/state/territory level which is not helpful for analyses at small regional levels (e.g. ABS Cat no.s 6354.0, 8155.0, 6348.0).

We are aware that the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (ABS Cat. no. 4741.0) is undertaken every six years and includes labour force statistics. However the results from this survey are not directly comparable with LFS data as the two surveys utilise different timeframes, and thus integration with data from other Catalogues to provide a “whole of

population” becomes problematic.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a valuable longitudinal survey and some researchers have examined impacts of non-standard employment using this dataset (e.g. Mooi-Reci and Wooden 2016). However, the HILDA survey does not capture certain cohorts/areas, for example people living in remote/sparsely areas of Australia and people living in non-private dwellings. Furthermore, sample size issues means that data collected from NT households must be treated with caution and these findings cannot be more broadly applied to the NT population with confidence.

In conclusion, we believe that capturing non-standard forms of employment in the Census, when combined with the existing questions around education, income, cultural diversity, gender and so on, would result in a tremendous dataset that would permit detailed fine-grained analysis of the relationships between non-standard forms of employment, education and training pathways, as well as a range of other socio-economic and geographic factors. The ability to identify these relationships across the entire population (and in turn, areas of untapped potential) is likely to be critical in terms of ensuring our future competitiveness and economic growth.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Non-ABS References

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About RDA NT

RDA NT is an incorporated not-for-profit community-based organisation that is concerned with building partnerships and ensuring that all governments and stakeholders collaborate in developing and strengthening regional communities. RDA NT is part of a nationwide network of more than 50 RDA Committees with membership comprising local individuals who have a good understanding of the economic, environmental and social issues and priorities in their respective regions.

Given the NT's particular geographic, demographic and economic circumstances, RDA NT has a particular interest in being able to accurately gauge the nature and extent of non-standard forms of employment across a range of industry sectors and geographic regions. Currently we are one of two industry partners in a three-year ARC Linkage project, "Creative Barkly" led by Griffith University, examining the economic and social contribution of the creative industries to very remote regional economies. Following Holden (2015), the research team's "ecological" approach to the sector recognises relationships and patterns between traditionally separated domains such as commercial, amateur and subsidised. This approach is a much better fit for very remote regional contexts (which geographically comprises much of the NT and Northern Australia). It recognises that not only professional creative workers and recognised arts centres make up the sector. Artists and arts workers who do not derive their main income from the creative sector, and non-arts organisations that deliver arts-based programs, nevertheless form part of supply chains and may contribute significantly to socio-economic outcomes in these areas. Six digit occupation data from the 2011 Census (we understand 2016 six digit data is not yet available for release) indicates there are fewer than 35 artists in the Barkly SA3 region, yet to date we have identified more than 300, through including individuals engaged in non-standard forms of employment (including CDP participants). This clearly will have implications for our understanding of the size and impact of the sector in this region.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 103157002

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I ride a motorcycle as my main transport to and from work, & the last census didn't have this option in the method of travel to work in either multiple or single modes, which is an anomaly when you consider that Motor cycle registrations in Australia continue to grow showing the fastest growth of any type of vehicle over the past five years, according to figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is required for an electoral or legislative purpose

- data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
- data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents
- the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
- respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
- the question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial
- respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

- the topic or question will not require extensive processing
- the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
- the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
- the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic

- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 880007420

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission was compiled by **Redacted text**

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Improvements are required for identifying Australians living with disability. In the 2016 Census, disability was measured only in terms of whether a person requires 'help' or 'someone to be with them'. This does not adequately allow a person to identify as having a disability. Disability pride plays an important role in destigmatising disability within the community. It is important to note that not all people with disabilities require assistance with self-care activities, body movement or communication. The current questions establish disability from a medical model perspective, and do nothing to identify the barriers people with a disability face in accessing full participation in ordinary life. The ratification of the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of Persons of Disabilities (CPRD) by the Australia Government in 2008 means that Australia must demonstrate that opportunities for disabled people do not differ from the rest of society, that rights under the CPRD are upheld and their dignity respected in all aspects of life.

Further to this, there is a need to consider consistency of language. The use of the words 'profound and severe' is not used in all current demographic data. There also needs to be consideration for chronic health issues (e.g. – diabetes) that do not require significant assistance. The language could be changed to "significant assistance" instead of just "assistance".

It is important to identify gaps between those with disability or the ageing population who requires assistance but do not qualify for NDIS or Home Care Packages. Consider expanding and reframing of the current questions as they are somewhat paternalistic/patronising. It is recommended that the language is changed from 'help' and 'someone to be with them' and replaced with 'require support/assistance with'. There are other surveys which attempt to capture such data, namely the Supplementary Disability Survey and the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. However, both surveys are sample data collection and only relate to state level.

Further recommended considerations:

- Identify barriers by location and disability type to provide essential data for good planning of infrastructure and services at a local level.

- Ensure a clear differentiation is made between permanent and temporary disability, and at the beginning.
- Need to expand the definition of assistance with communication so that all disabilities are considered.
- Consider asking if the disability is mobility based, sensory, or communication (could tick multiple).
- Ensure definitions align with language used in relevant Commonwealth and State Plans.
- Consider including a question on whether the disability impacts on the person's ability to be involved in the community in any way.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKTQ-S.docx](#)

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 601633219

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Redacted text, and our team is interested in data relating to income and work and journey to work. Attached are suggestions for questions around work mobility. Thank you

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Income and work

Choose one of more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Income
- ☒ Labour force status
- ☒ Status in employment
- ☒ Hours worked
- ☐

☐ Self employed - number of employees

☐ Occupation

☐ Industry of employment

☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Place of work, work mobility

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

To assist in informing infrastructure and service provision as well as economic analysis, would you please consider adding a question or questions to ascertain:-

- Does the individual work in various or multiple locations?
- Do they work from home?

This information would assist with analysing how mobile the local workforce is in the changing world of work.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the

following Census.

Continuing need

There is a shift towards a more mobile workforce and self-employment. Additional questions would assist in understanding the local workforce and inform service and infrastructure provision for this cohort.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 457033022

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Netrider Motorcycle Forum

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

It comes to our attention after each census that many modes of transportation were surveyed, but never PTW (Powered Two Wheeled) devices. PTWs represent a significant community profile, from scooters and small bikes for commuting and delivery duties, to sporting motorcycles and touring motorcycles, many of which are also used for commuting and duties not confined to their main purpose. In addition PTWs make up a huge proportion of the off-road transport and farming and agricultural fleet, and are also a big form of off-road recreation. In short, users of PTWs make up a significant proportion of the population, and should be being surveyed on that basis, as they are on every other basis.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 886076723

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Shoalhaven City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

1. Council is very supportive of continuation of the Census as the information is essential for councils to undertake forward planning.
2. Council would like to see the addition of questions around temporal population such as whether individuals own multiple properties, and if so, where they are located, how much of the year is spent in these properties (if at all) and whether the individuals intend to retire to these locations.
3. Also a question about whether respondents undertake short-term letting of part or all of their property (or properties) & number of nights per year.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Location

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Address on Census night
- ☐ Usual residence
- ☒ Internal migration (Address 1 year ago)
- ☒ Internal migration (Address 5 years ago)
- ☒ Workplace address for the main job held the week before Census night
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The data would support policy making and infrastructure planning. Shoalhaven, as with a number of coastal and regional areas, has a fluctuating population due to tourism and a high level of absentee ownership. Shoalhaven, as with much of the country, has an aging population which will be intensified if a large number of retirees move into the area to occupy the currently unoccupied dwellings and increase pressure on limited services. Also, the increasing number of people engaging in short-term letting is having impacts on local communities; being able to quantify the level of this activity will enable policy development to these manage impacts

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This type of data would be useful across the board as these issues affect many areas of Australia, not just Shoalhaven.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Questions related to these topics could easily be phrased as yes/no and number range questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Generally the topic should be acceptable to Census respondents as it is not asking for personal or contentious information.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Yes, as questions related to these topics could easily be phrased as yes/no and number range questions which can easily be coded and would be easily understood by respondents.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes as this information will allow for identification of trends in the prevalence of short-term rentals, and of those area likely to experience an influx of retirees to current areas of high absentee ownership.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Not at this time.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 277851264

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

motorcycling community

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Members of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Victoria

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Ensure census results to enumerate motorcycle (or road registered powered two wheeled vehicles) numbers and frequency of use of these vehicles. Road congestion is a common problem in all parts of Australia, particularly for those travelling to and from work. Promoting use of motorcycles in place of cars would alleviate problems but motorcycle use is currently "invisible" and planners too frequently overlook advantages of two wheeled powered vehicles.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work

CL

☒ Name and address of workplace attended

☐ Number of motor vehicles

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Road congestion and pollution created by cars with few passengers are problems faced by those travelling to and from work, especially in urban or city areas but also in regional centres where public transport options are frequently limited or non-existent.

While there are many advocates proposing for use of bicycles or public transport in place of cars for such travel, too little emphasis is given to the use of motorcycles (or motor scooters) in place of cars. Although modern powered two wheeled vehicles offer excellent mobility, efficient use of fuels, are affordable and occupy only a small road area, they are frequently overlooked as a legitimate transport option. Attitudes to motorcycles and those who ride them are frequently portrayed in a negative light by the media, law and order and road transport authorities and these influences have the effect of steering younger travellers away from serious consideration of motorcycles as a transport option. Better data on motorcycle numbers and their use would help improve transport policies and transport planning. Improved data would assist those researchers seeking solutions to congested roads and city centres.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Currently, census transport data favours those who travel by car, train/tram, bus or bicycle or who walk. The value of motorcycle use, particularly for longer journeys to/from work in place of car travel, has the potential to improve journey times for all road users (including those in buses) by reducing road congestion caused by both moving and parked cars. The benefit of travel by motorcycle in place of cars has the potential to benefit smaller population groups (ie: those travelling to and from regional centres such as Bendigo or Ballarat or even Darwin), smaller geographic areas (ie: those postcodes through which pass main road corridors). Less time spent travelling or caught in traffic congestion has the potential to improve quality of life for both the traveller and nearby residents.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Data about motorcycle ownership and motorcycle use or about intentions regarding ownership or use is best collected at the household level. These data would be no more difficult to collect than data about other transport options.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic of motorcycle ownership or use or intentions with regard to these matters is not inherently intrusive, offensive or controversial.

What is not "acceptable" or not to Census respondents is that an obvious transport option that has potential to make a positive difference to road utilisation is ignored by the national census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Collecting data on motorcycle ownership or use or intentions with regard to these topics would be simple. The concept of two wheeled powered vehicles is universally understood.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As our major cities continue to expand and patterns of work involving journeys to and from dwelling to work also continue, there will be a greater emphasis on how to improve the efficiency of existing road and vehicle parking infrastructure while at the same time limiting high levels of reinvestment in infrastructure expansion.

To slow the population growth (and housing demand) in our major cities, most state governments are promoting regional "growth" centres as places to live and work. This trend will increasingly bring road (and parking) congestion to regional centres.

Motorcycles offer a way to improve the utilisation of existing road transport resources and improve the quality of life.

These topics are important today and will remain so well into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not possible to overlook the headline impact of the national census. While demographic commentators (ie: Bernard Salt) are able to highlight key issues in the between census period, big media are rarely interested in ABS data outside the census results. The impact of authoritative data at census time cannot be overlooked.

The ability to be able to enumerate motorcycle ownership and use and the frequency of motorcycle use for work related journeys will assist decision making.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 333790803

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Transport

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

- ☐ Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- ☐ Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ☐ Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- ☐ Australian Local Government Association
- ☐ Transport for NSW
- ☐ Department of Transport, Western Australia
- ☐ Department of Main Roads, Western Australia
- ☐ National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- ☐ National Transport Commission
- ☐ Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria
- ☐ Transport for Victoria
- ☐ Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, South Australia
- ☐ Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- ☐ Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory
- ☐ Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory
- ☐ WA Local Government Association
- ☐ On-demand Transport, Department of Transport

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Ride sourcing is emerging as a significant mode of transport. In order for transport authorities to be able to maximise the opportunities associated with ride sourcing and minimise any risks, it is imperative to have an avenue for obtaining such valuable data through the 2021 Census.

- The need for the data is nationally important.
- Data is needed for the whole population.
- The data can be accurately collected.
- The data is not contentious.
- The data can be collected efficiently.
- The data is needed over the long term.
- The Census is the most suitable way to collect the data.

Ride sourcing will continue to remain relevant in the future as all signs indicate that its proportion of the transport market will only continue to grow, including its share of the work commute.

Given the long-term policy and planning decisions that are required to support transport infrastructure (including public transport, roads, bike lanes and footpaths), there is an urgent need to collect data on the adoption of ride sourcing services and their potential impacts on travel choices and how they affect transport decisions.

There is widespread stakeholder support for this proposal.

Excluding ride sourcing as a method of commuting to work misses a valuable opportunity for government authorities to better understand its impact in a rapidly changing transport landscape and to support transport policy and planning decisions to meet community needs.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐

☐ Number of motor vehicles

☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Technological advancements over the past decade have resulted in a shift in the way that people travel and the way they access the ability to travel. The growth in use of smartphones and apps are examples of market-driven developments which have transformed the possibilities for transport and have led to the emergence of new transport services. With the advent of technological change in the transport sector (e.g. journey planning apps, contactless payments and the provision of real time information), consumers have embraced new service delivery models in the changing transport landscape.

One of the most significant developments in the transport sector which has been supported by technology innovation and the growth of the sharing economy has been the emergence of ride sourcing – a form of convenient, flexible on-demand transport booked through smartphone apps that enable customers to tailor their journeys to fit individual needs.

The growth in the ride sourcing market emphasises the need for governments to have access to vital information about travel patterns and usage in order to be able to effectively plan and deliver services for future transport networks. The inclusion of ride sourcing in the Census will provide an important mechanism for transport authorities to access crucial data on this relatively new and evolving method of travel. While traditionally taxis have been used as the main form of on demand transport, consumers are now using ride sourcing services as well to complement existing services and it is likely that it will also form an important part of the journey to work picture in the coming years which governments will need to have visibility over to better inform policy.

The benefits of ride sourcing for transport authorities include the potential for such services to reduce private vehicle ownership and use, with associated positive impacts on congestion and the environment and improving connectivity by addressing gaps in the transport network (i.e. the provision of 'first mile-last mile' connections to public transport hubs). For consumers, the benefits include having more choices on offer, accessibility, flexibility and convenience. There are also risks for government around continuing to ensure consumer protection and safety.

In order for transport authorities to be able to maximise the opportunities associated with ride sourcing and minimise any risks, it is imperative to have an avenue for obtaining such valuable data through the 2021 Census.

Ride sourcing has experienced significant growth in adoption over the past several years throughout Australia and worldwide. The ride sourcing company with the largest market share in Australia – Uber – has grown substantially since its launch in 2014. Research shows that 3.7 million Australians aged 14 years and over (18.4% of the population) travelled by Uber in the three months to December 2017, up from just under 1 million (5.1%) less than 2 years ago. The same research also showed that in the last three months of 2017, approximately 24% of WA residents had used an Uber, followed by 22% in Victoria, and 17% in both NSW and Queensland. Since Uber's launch in April 2014 to 2016, over 10 million uberX rides have been completed in Australia. Nationally, Uber earned an estimated \$260 million in fares in 2016.

Such extensive growth demonstrates how the ride sourcing market has expanded nationally within a short period of time and highlights the ways in which ride sourcing has changed the way Australians travel. Although the available evidence indicates that the majority of ride sourcing trips are currently made for recreational or social purposes and predominantly on weekends, the growing proportion of trips taken with ride sourcing services more broadly indicates that the number of trips taken for the work commute will also increase.

This is particularly the case in the future environment where nationally, trip patterns will continue to vary with the growth of the 'sharing' economy (e.g. car sharing and bike sharing), as well as changing work patterns (e.g. flexible hours, telecommuting, etc). There is evidence of corporate accounts being established with ride sourcing companies for work related trips. Ride sourcing is becoming a popular transport mode for businesses as travel can be easily monitored and provides a cost saving. Combined with its flexibility and

convenience, ride sourcing will continue to offer an attractive transport option for consumers throughout Australia.

The rapid increase in ride sourcing use on a national scale raises questions around just how ride sourcing has changed travel patterns, including the extent to which users are substituting from public transport or other modes, changes in mode use and its impact on congestion and carbon emissions. These are all important questions for policy makers and will provide highly useful data that can be used for research and policy development purposes. Including ride sourcing in the Method of Travel to Work in the 2021 Census will help to shed further light on answering the questions that its extensive use raises.

Excluding ride sourcing as a method of commuting to work misses a valuable opportunity for government authorities to better understand its impact in a rapidly changing transport landscape and to support transport policy and planning decisions to meet community needs.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of collecting ride sourcing data can be seen in the opportunities it provides for transport authorities to better support policy and planning processes into the future and recognise emerging transport trends in order to be able to respond accordingly, e.g. proactive regulatory or legislative change. The ability to harness ride sourcing data is further enhanced through cross classification with other characteristics collected in the Census including socio-economic and demographic data. The inclusion of ride sourcing as a Method of Travel to Work could allow the Census to examine use amongst population groups in certain geographic locations or socio-demographic characteristics. On a larger scale, the data could be used to ascertain national, state, regional or local trends or patterns, particularly when cross-referenced with demographic information such as age, gender, education, income and employment status.

For example, studies have shown that millenials are one of the key driving forces behind the growth of the 'shared economy' and are more likely to use ride sourcing, representing the largest proportion of ride source users. In particular, Australian research shows that despite the growth of Uber use amongst older age groups a clear majority of Uber users – 58.7% – are still aged under 35, either 14-24 years (25.1%) or 25-34 years (33.6%). It also reflects a broader societal trend in changing vehicle use and ownership in Australia; in particular licensing rates among younger people are declining.

Data obtained from the Census therefore, could be used to examine how travel patterns amongst different population groups (including use amongst younger and older Australians), have changed over time as well as any differences between different geographic areas and levels of ride source use for work commuting in order to enable transport authorities to undertake more targeted transport planning and investment.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The addition of ride sourcing would not be onerous as it does not constitute a separate Journey to Work question – rather, it is simply a further option for respondents to select within the Journey to Work question. As a result, it is simple and easy for respondents to understand and does not require a lengthy or overly complicated explanation in order to answer accurately. It is recommended that the following wording is used in the check/tick box: ride sourcing (e.g. paid service via Uber). The inclusion of ride sourcing companies enhances the clarity of the question so that respondents are clear on what is being asked, without adding further complexity.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The addition of ride sourcing is not considered offensive, intrusive or controversial; it does not seek opinions or attitudes and is not subjective in nature. Respondents will be willing and able to answer accurately as it is straightforward and quick to provide an answer. Including examples of ride sourcing companies in the ride sourcing option means that it is easy for all groups to understand, given the widespread societal awareness of ride sourcing – even if people have not used a ride sourcing platform, it is highly likely they have heard of it and have some understanding of what it is and whether they have used it on Census day.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The responses to whether ride sourcing was used as a Method of Travel to Work should not be too difficult to code or process given that it is only a subset of the broader Method of Travel to Work question and only requires one extra check/tick box for respondents to select, for example, the ride sourcing option could be framed in the following way:

☐ Ride sourcing (e.g. paid service via Uber)

Including ride sourcing will not require any further response categories or multiple questions to be required to collect additional data. It will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a continuing need for collecting ride sourcing data as understanding changes in commuting and travel patterns enables transport and planning authorities to plan and to predict future use of new or updated transport systems and transport services based on their understanding of the current users of various transport options. Collecting data in the following Census will enable transport authorities to identify any changes in mode use and travel behaviour and as a result, is highly valuable for informing policy development and planning around transport service delivery.

Ongoing data is needed for transport authorities to inform future research around how ride sourcing may also influence future trajectories of traffic volumes and associated carbon emissions so that cities can effectively plan for transport infrastructure and public transport investments. As noted by a report undertaken in the US, while research that harnesses data from ride sourcing companies may shed light on the utilisation, demographics, and miles travelled of ride sourcing services, the more complex decisions that individuals and households make over time require continued data collection efforts through representative samples of the population.

As noted in a stakeholder submission provided by the Tasmanian Department of State Growth to DoT on the inclusion of ride sourcing as a Method of Travel to Work (MTWP), “data on changing travel patterns will be useful for governments to assess any gaps in existing public passenger transport networks. Additionally, longitudinal data may assist governments in revenue forecasting through predicting changes in vehicle ownership and registration”.

Ride sourcing will continue to remain relevant in the future as all signs indicate that its proportion of the transport market will only continue to grow, including its share of the work commute.

Ride sourcing has ongoing national relevance for decision makers given it is an integral part of the rapidly evolving transport market and technology innovation, the expanding shared economy and the predominant use of mobile phone apps and 'the Internet of Things' in order to access and consume products and services. As ride sourcing continues to offer a convenient and relatively affordable method of travel, it is likely that more and more people will use it for their work commute (and other purposes during peak periods) highlighting the need to continue gathering data which can then be analysed and provide research insights.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is currently a limited amount of publically available data for authorities to assess how, when and why ride sourcing services are utilised. Ride sourcing data is not currently collected in an ABS survey or by other government agencies/authorities.

Although there has been some research undertaken on the take-up and use of ride sourcing in Australia and the United States, these studies do not specifically address the journey to work commute, and in some cases, rely primarily on data provided by Uber.

Due to the competitive nature of the market, ride source companies are reluctant to release data on usage. Currently, any data about ride sourcing from these companies is only available on request however there is no guarantee that the company will make it available for government, as is their prerogative. There are no regulatory, legal or other mechanisms to compel companies to share their data with government for public policy purposes and analysis.

Collection of data on the use of ride sourcing through the Census will provide a valuable source of reliable data from a government authority, independent of reliance on ride sourcing companies. A 2015 US Deloitte Report on smart mobility recommended the US Census Bureau include on-demand ride

services (i.e. ride sourcing) as one of the options for journey to work questions in its American Community Survey as this would greatly aid transport planners in assessing the impact of on-demand ride services, as well as their benefits and potential downsides.

Given the long-term policy and planning decisions that are required to support transport infrastructure (including public transport, roads, bike lanes and footpaths), there is an urgent need to collect data on the adoption of ride sourcing services and their potential impacts on travel choices and how they affect transport decisions.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The FIRST preference for modifying the Census content is to include “ride sourcing” in the Method of Travel to Work question.

If this cannot be achieved, the SECOND preference for modifying the Census content is to edit the current “Taxi” mode to the new “Taxi or ride sourcing” in the Method of Travel to Work question, however this would not provide the same level of useful information.

Stakeholder submissions were all supportive of including ride sourcing as a separate Method of Travel to Work option and all stakeholders agreed with the need to collect ride sourcing information and the proposal to do so accordingly. The main suggestion was to change the term ride sharing.

Queensland TMR and the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) suggested a second approach which would result in less useful information, but less change. This consists of changing the current option of ‘Taxi’ in the Census to become ‘Taxi or ride sourcing’.

Queensland TMR has also recommended removing the examples of private

companies listed in DoT's draft submission to stakeholders in the ride sourcing question (i.e. Uber, Ola, GoCatch, Shebah, etc) as would take two lines on the Census form rather than one line, and recommends moving the examples to a help or FAQ section of the Census.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KEG-XKM9-T.doc](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 324374594

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission suggests a further question that could be asked relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Opportunities to further understand indigenous cultures via Census questions should be explored. It is suggested that questions targeted at uncovering more detail about how people associate with being indigenous should be included. The following question is suggested: "Do you feel there are enough opportunities to engage in your culture in your local area?"

The answers to this question could assist in identifying gaps in cultural

opportunities, and in planning and designing programs and opportunities to address those gaps.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is required at local and broader geographic levels. This data could also be cross-correlated with a range of other data from the Census.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is considered that it could be relatively easy to collect this data via the Census, particularly if the questions is provided in a yes/no format.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposed question may be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial by some people, but may be considered acceptable by others.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is assumed that the data would be relatively easy to collect and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a need for time series data on this topic and it is likely to remain relevant, and even become more important in future - as more individuals identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It is not known by the authors of this submission whether or not comprehensive, continuous, spatially based data on this topic is collected via other sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 944036488

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Include unanswered questions Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Banyule City Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community are estimated to make up around 11% of the Australian population, however our ability to capture data in the space has historically been severely limited. It is very important to make sure measures are put in place to assist with better data collection on this under-represented community cohort. Banyule City Council requests that provisions be made in the 2021 census to include questions that address, sex, gender and sexuality.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This data is of current national importance because as previously mentioned, the Australian Human Rights Commission currently estimates that 11% of the population identify as sex, sexuality and/or gender diverse. This is a very large cohort of the total population and worthy of national attention, particular given that there is currently very little data collected at federal, state or local levels. Currently this makes it very difficult to provide substantive support for policy development, planning or program monitoring. This data would also fill huge gaps in current research opportunities in this space.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As these questions are applicable to the whole of population, it would be very beneficial to understand the health and wellbeing of the LGBTI community by combining with other characteristics collected in the Census.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Whilst for a small percentage of the population the questions on this topic may seem controversial, the questions would be simple but provide people with more options for their answers than previously offered, and are easy for most people to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic may be considered a little controversial for some respondents but this doesn't mean it should be asked- it is an opportunity to continue to raise awareness and understanding in the broader community on topics of sex, sexuality and gender diversity and normalize conversations in this space.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

In 2016 the ABS put unnecessary steps in place for people who wanted to identify themselves as trans. These additional barriers are discriminatory and made it more difficult for people to accurately report. By simply providing

additional options for people to answer in relation to sex, sexuality and gender, should not create extra work or coding difficulties, and for the population who do not identify as part of the LGBTI community, they will already know how to answer for themselves. The number of response categories should not be considered as something arduous, this is an irrelevant point. Our language is so limited in this space and it is rapidly evolving so to come to a consensus on categories at this point in time may be difficult but this should not be a barrier to providing these options to respondents, and should be continued to be developed and crafted into future years to keep up with changes.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Limited data that is currently available show that increasing numbers of people are identifying as being part of the LGBTI community, so will be important to track changes over a time series. Sex, sexuality and gender is an inherent part of human identity and will always be relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet

the topic need.

No alternatives

All nation-wide sources are generally estimates currently, in relation to LGBTI community members. Hard data is vital.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

There should be absolutely no additional barriers put in place for those who wish to answer questions that relate to sex, sexuality and gender diversity. If so, it is considered to be systemic discrimination.

As a local government, we would like to be able to better understand our community and how they identify. In our Inclusion, Access and Equity Framework we have identified that the LGBTI community experience higher levels of experience and exclusion. As they make up a significant cohort of the population, it is our role to promote respect and social cohesion, to make our community a better place to live. Having data on this cohort is of vital important to achieving this.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 756825211

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

In the Disability and Carers section we think it would be useful to know if people are accessing subsidised support.

Possible question: In the past 4 weeks did the person access government subsidised support?

This would be very relevant for Aboriginal and CaLD people as there is a fear that they do not equitably access the supports available.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☒ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring.

Not having the data in regard to people accessing subsidised support in the Disability and Carers area possibly means that people in the community are not aware of the services provided. This is an area where some people struggle with day to day living. not being aware that there is assistance available.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed from groups encompassing Disability and Carers.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The data can be collected in a simple question: Disability and Carers:
e.g. In the past 4 weeks did the person access government subsidised support.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Disability and Carers: The topic should not appear offensive. Most respondents should be willing to answer with accuracy the question. Aboriginal and CaLD responses would be very beneficial although not always easy to acquire.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Disability and Carers: One question could provide the additional information as to whether the person did access government subsidised support in the past four weeks. This should have very little impact on the finances or resources required.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Disability and Carers:

The topic should remain relevant for some time especially taking into account the population living longer hence the probability of more people with disability and Carers.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is nothing on a larger scale which would provide this information. It is related to a significant part of the population, and a growth area in years to come.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 14781785

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

That you folks should care to count Powered Two Wheels, motorbikes and scooters, as modes of transport.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 306855966

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I believe that motorcycles (PTW) ought to be sufficiently in use to be an inclusion in the 2021 Census

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is required for an electoral or legislative purpose
 data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
 data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups
data is needed for small geographic areas
the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

the topic is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial
respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

the topic or question will not require extensive processing

the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census

the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation

the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic
the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data otherwise not available





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 886060262

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Support for the continuation of census questions on disability.
Clarification that the SDAC, not the census, is the ABS preferred method to estimate disability prevalence.
Proposing a Yes/No question on whether a person is an NDIS participant

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Information on NDIS participants not available from the NDIA

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed on NDIS participants and their characteristics described in the

census. This is essential so that the community, researchers and policy makers can understand the coverage of the scheme across population groups.

To date, the NDIA has not released client data as recommended by the Productivity Commission in its 2017 report on NDIS Costs, nor has it responded to the recommendations. Through the Commonwealth Data Integration arrangements, NDIA data would be able to be linked to other national datasets, providing a detailed picture of NDIS participants and their supports, while ensuring data confidentiality is guaranteed.

The census will not replace the data that should be available for the NDIS, but will provide a valuable snapshot of NDIS participants at the census date. Data linkage across censuses will provide a valuable longitudinal picture of NDIS participants going forward.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data from the census will permit a view covering specific population groups, notably Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people and CALD populations, across urban, regional and remote areas.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The new question proposed is a Yes/No question for persons identified with a disability using existing questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question is a factual issue, and will not be intrusive nor constitute a Provider burden.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A simple Yes/No question does not impose a coding burden

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The question should be evaluated before the 2026 census in light of other information then available on NDIS participants and the supports provided to them from the NDIS

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The NDIA is known to hold an extensive database on NDIS participants, their support plans and supports provided. These data have been collected for internal use in actuarial studies and outcome evaluation, But data are not being released to the community, researchers and other users, notably the AIHW and the ABS.

The ABS is urged to discuss the relative merits of the recommended census approach and alternative access to NDIS data with the NDIA in deciding on inclusion of the proposed question.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKGB-W.pdf](#)



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 387505353

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Cockburn

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

N/A

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Number of people looking after grandchildren full-time i.e. every day 5 days a

week

Number of people looking after grandchildren all the time (day and night)

Number of grandparent full-time carers receiving financial assistance to help with caring full-time for a child

Number of grandparent full time carers receiving government assistance for the care of their grandchildren

Number of grandparent full time carers receiving family assistance (i.e. from their own family) for the full time care of their grandchildren

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Unpaid work and care

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Unpaid care of children
- ☐ Unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- ☐ Unpaid work - domestic activities
- ☐ Unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support planning programs to support grandparents who are full-time carers of grandchildren

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This data will be useful for planning respite for full-time grandparent carers.
This data will be useful for planning financial assistance for full-time grandparent carers.
This data will be useful for grant funding applications to support this cohort, if support is needed.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Questions would be fairly easy to answer, but might need some specifications e.g. do you pay for most of the cost for food, clothes, etc. etc for the child in your full time care

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic might be considered intrusive or controversial in general or in specific cultural groups

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Shouldn't be an issue

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Likely to be a need for this information for the foreseeable future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Haven't found this information elsewhere on a national scale so comparisons available

[Accessibility](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Cookies](#) [Privacy](#) [Help / feedback](#)

 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 857807234

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Non-government organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHIA)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

CAPHIA proposes adding one or more questions about smoking prevalence to the 2021 Australian Census. These questions would be similar to the questions suggested by Thomas and Scollo (2018) and the questions asked about smoking in the New Zealand Census in 2013.

These questions would be phrased:

'Do you smoke regularly (that is, once or more a day)?'

Yes/No

If the answer is 'No' then the respondent is asked:

'Have you ever been a regular smoker (that is, once or more a day)?'

Yes/No

If only one question can be asked for the sake of space, then we recommend:

'Do you currently smoke regularly, that is at least once a day?'

Yes/No

Reference:

Thomas, T.P. and Scollo, M. (2018). Should a smoking question be added to the Australian 2021 Census? Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health 42(3): 225-226

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Public Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Tobacco smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in Australia.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimated that in 2011, tobacco use contributed to over 13% of all deaths in Australia. Tobacco use has been found to be responsible for more than 9% of the overall burden of disease, especially contributing to cardiovascular diseases, cancers and respiratory illnesses.

More detailed and comprehensive data about tobacco smoking is required for research into the most effective policies to prevent smoking and encourage existing smokers to quit. Data is also required in order to implement smoking cessation policies in the most effective manner.

Reference:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018). Australia's Health 2018.
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/3fd37284-905a-4ee4-bdbe-2b27ee25a941/aihw-aus-221-chapter-4-5.pdf.aspx>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

While smoking has decreased over the last decades in the Australian population as a whole, specific population and geographic groups are significantly more likely to experience added burden of disease from smoking.

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are more than twice as likely to smoke as non-Indigenous Australians. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 45% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18 years and over were smokers in 2014-15, compared to 16% of non-Indigenous people 18 years and over.

In order to put together more effective and targeted smoking prevention and cessation campaigns, researchers and policymakers require more detailed information about smoking, especially about small geographic areas and small population groups which are unable to receive this level of coverage in surveys. The need for this data to be collected in the Census is made more urgent by the fact that many preventative health campaigns are held on the state and local levels, and so require more detailed data to formulate effective policy than would be necessary for a national campaign.

References:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Smoking Trends, Australia, 1994 to 2014-15.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4737.0~1994%20to%202014-15~Main%20Features~Smoking%20Prevalence~10>

Thomas, T.P. and Scollo, M. (2018). Should a smoking question be added to the Australian 2021 Census? Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health 42(3): 225-226

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

CAPHIA's proposed questions will be able to be quickly and easily collected on the Census household form. The questions have only two possible answers ('yes' or 'no'), meaning that there will be minimal ambiguity in responses.

This is also a topic well understood by Australians. Anti-smoking campaigns

have been broadcast and published in Australia for decades, meaning that there is a high level of awareness of why the issue of smoking is of public importance.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposed smoking questions are unlikely to be considered intrusive, and similar questions have been asked without incident or offence in the National Health Survey and the New Zealand Census in the past.

The most recent non-response rate for similar questions in the New Zealand Census (2013) was low, at 6.7% . This indicates that the vast majority of people are willing and able to answer questions about smoking.

Reference:

Statistics New Zealand (2013). <http://archive.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/info-about-2013-census-data/information-by-variable/cigarette-smoking-behaviour.aspx#nonresponse>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As the proposed questions have only two possible responses ('yes' and 'no') it

is anticipated that these will not present difficulties in coding or interpreting the data collected.

As the questions are short, and respondents will be able to read and answer the questions quickly, it will not add significantly to respondent burden or the cost of the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Smoking prevalence is likely to continue to be an issue of interest to policymakers in the future. The bulk of the Australian burden of disease has moved from the communicable diseases of the past, to chronic, non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes. Smokers have a higher likelihood of developing many of these non-communicable diseases, as well as having a worse prognosis, than do non-smokers. Smoking is also a risk factor for health conditions developed in the future, so rates of smoking today are likely to affect the rates of chronic disease decades in the future.

Furthermore, as Australia continues to integrate into the global economy, it needs to prepare itself for trends occurring overseas. Smoking prevalence is increasing in many low- and middle-income countries with whom Australia has strong connections. The growth in cigarette smoking is particularly a concern in China, where an average smoker currently consumes 50% more cigarettes than they did in 1980. China is Australia's largest trading partner and the third largest country of origin of overseas-born Australians . This provides a substantial reason why smoking prevention and cessation programs are likely to continue to be necessary in decades to come.

References:

Tobacco Atlas 2015.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20151222131456/http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/topic/cigarette-use-globally/>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. Migration, Australia 2015-16.

[http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3412.0Main%20Features32015-16?](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3412.0Main%20Features32015-16?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3412.0&issue=2015-16&num=&view=)

[opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3412.0&issue=2015-16&num=&view=](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3412.0Main%20Features32015-16?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3412.0&issue=2015-16&num=&view=)

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While information about smoking prevalence is collected in the National Health Survey (NHS), there is a trend of survey response rates decreasing over time, both in Australia and overseas. This means that it is unwise to rely on the NHS as the major source of information for this issue.

Another reason that survey data alone is inadequate is that it does not allow for data integration in the way that census data does. Census data can be linked to mortality records, which provides much more accurate estimates of smoking prevalence and mortality in smaller subgroups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, small ethnic and cultural groups, LGBTI Australians, the severely socioeconomically disadvantaged and people experiencing homelessness.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 856140111

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Some of the additional data I would like to see included in the Census:

- Health and wellbeing statistics (including physical and mental health, and availability/access to health services)
- Recreation statistics (participation and non-participation rates and in what areas)
- Use of technology statistics (and potential impact on relationships, health, community, productivity etc.)

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health, wellbeing, recreation, technology

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data is used as evidence to support funding submissions
data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
data is used for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

data is needed for small population groups
data is needed for small geographic areas
the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents
the topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Recreation, health and wellbeing are generally easy to respond to, and if identified most people in general would have no issue. Mental health carries more of a stigma but if confidentiality is assured it is an important statistic to collect and know about to inform service planning.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It all depends on the level of detail collected.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic
the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

If it is produced by other departments, it is not as easily accessible as through the ABS and can be better compared and correlated with other topics for same populations.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 802560898

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☒ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

City of Cockburn

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

My main interest would be around sexuality. Australia have gone through a very difficult time for people who identify with the LGBTQTI community. It would be good to know how many people in our community identify as part of this group, in order to help support them. This would need to be done very sensitively and could only be supported if it was to be used to help inform the provision of services and help everyone feel part of an inclusive and tolerant community.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As indicated, my main interest would be around sexuality. Australia have gone through a very difficult time for people who identify with the LGBTQTI community.

It would be good to know how many people in our community identify as part of this group, in order to help support them.

This would need to be done very sensitively and could only be supported if it was to be used to help inform the provision of services and help everyone feel part of an inclusive and tolerant community.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As per 1

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes this should be possible.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This would need to be very carefully considered. I would only recommend collecting this data if it was done very sensitively, and only used to help inform the provision of services and help everyone feel part of an inclusive and tolerant community.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Yes

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes I would expect so.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

That is my understanding

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 520080472

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We are suggesting including Journey to Education information, including the name, address or postcode of the institution individuals attend, and the method of travel to get there.

At the moment the main data source available to understand how people move around our towns and cities is through Journey to Work data. Journey to Work only provides information for a portion of the trips on our networks. Additional information is required in order to plan cities that can have an efficient transport network in the future.

Journey to Education information would provide additional data to complement the Journey to Work data on the most regular and frequent travel, although

there remains other reasons for travel. Those attending educational institutions are doing so on a frequent basis and make up a significant portion of all trips, so this addition would allow an understanding of how these people move around our cities.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Education and training

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Attendance at an educational institution
- ☒ Engagement in employment, education and training
- ☒ Highest year of schooling
- ☒ Highest non-school qualification
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Journey to Education

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

At the moment the main data source available to understand how people move around our towns and cities is through Journey to Work data.

This data is relied upon by local and state governments, along with private organisations to measure the use of the transport network, identify deficiencies and the need for investment, and to evaluate the effectiveness of infrastructure and services delivered. Much of analysis done to develop infrastructure policy, planning and prioritisation is based upon Journey to Work, as it is the only data representing the full population.

As commuting to work represents only a portion of total travel, this can lead to policy and plans which lack the evidence to address other reasons for travel, and the scale, type and location of infrastructure and services needed for current and future populations.

As Education is a significant focus of planning and capital and recurrent

expenditure by government, the addition of Journey to Education would help significantly to redress this imbalance.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It is envisaged that this information would include two additional questions. One would be the name, address or postcode of the Educational Institution and the other would be the mode(s) in how they got there on Census day.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is envisaged that this information would include two additional questions. There is a need to identify the institution attended, or its location. This may be either by name, address or postcode. There is also a need to identify the mode(s) used for the on Census day.

These questions will be easy for respondents to answer.

The mode question would be the same pro-forma as with the Journey to Work data (Q45). Respondents will already be familiar with the style and structure of that question so it will be simple to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is likely to be perceived in the same way as the Journey to Work question. As we are suggesting the option to identify the institution by postcode, those not wishing to identify a particular establishment need only provide this. The means and purpose of identifying the destination are similar as to those for Journey to Work, but there may be a need or preference to treat the location of education providers differently.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As discussed in criteria 3, the topic should only need to be two additional questions, that are already asked for different topics throughout the Census.

The processing and coding should be similar to the existing questions and no additional instruction or explanation would be required.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Journey to Work data is used to identify changes in travel behaviour, work location, trip patterns and travel demands over time. This enables understanding of changes in travel and the use of transport infrastructure and services in relation to historic changes in Australian cities, as the basis for forecasts of future need for infrastructure and services to evaluate use and effectiveness of infrastructure investments made between census years.

The same motivation, purpose and benefits would apply to extending this to include Journey to Education, providing a more complete picture of changes in travel demand, and the need for and effectiveness of investments in transport infrastructure and services.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet

the topic need.

No alternatives

Some education providers collect data to understand how their students access their Educational Institution. Using the Census to collect this information would enable greater efficiency and consistency between institutions and jurisdictions across Australia.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

N/A



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 268822063

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Allergic diseases are one of the fastest growing conditions worldwide and are a major public health problem. The world is dealing with an allergy epidemic. It is critical that we capture data on allergic diseases and other immune system disorders in Australia.

The following question would provide this critical information.

Do you have one or more of the following chronic (ongoing) health conditions (select all that apply):

Allergic Rhinitis (Hay Fever)

Allergy to Food

Allergy to Insect stings or bites

Allergy to Drugs (Medications)

Anaphylaxis (severe life threatening allergy)

Asthma

Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema)

Autoimmune Disease

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health - specifically immune system disorders

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Australian medical researchers lead the world in the area of immunology, yet data on the prevalence of immune system disorders is lacking.

It is therefore critical that we capture accurate data on immune system disorders, to enable our medical researchers to continue to lead the world in this area.

Accurate data will also enable appropriate health policy development, planning and program monitoring.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As immune system disorders are estimated to affect 20-25% of the population data is needed for all population groups and geographic areas in Australia.

The value of the data will be enhanced through combining it with other characteristics collected in the Census, such as geographic areas and population data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

With one simple and easy to answer question (with multiple answers) and plain english terminology the topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents.

Respondents should easily know the answer to the question as immune system disorders are common health problems.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The immune system disorders listed in the question are not due to poor lifestyle choices, are not contagious and are not sexually transmitted, so the topic is unlikely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

We expect that respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer the question accurately, particularly if they understand that the data collected will enable improved research into immune system disorders that will lead to better treatments and health outcomes.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

We expect that the question will not present major difficulties for coding the information, or require extensive processing, or significantly add to the overall cost of the Census.

The topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation and the collection of data on the topic will only have 10 options to choose from, including 9 immune system disorders and 1 "None of the above" answer.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Immune system disorders will continue to remain relevant in the future, so it would be useful to have time series data on the topic.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data on immune system disorders is not currently collected for administrative purposes, or in an ABS survey or by another organisation. Data is currently produced through extrapolation of existing data sources from relatively small sample sizes, including epidemiological studies.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Information about allergic diseases and other immune system disorders in Australia is available on the following reputable websites:

www.allergy.org.au

www.nationalallergystrategy.org.au

www.allergyfacts.org.au

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 86966230

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This submission seeks to:

- Support the ongoing inclusion of key transport questions in the ABS Census, including 'Method of Travel to Work', 'Place of Work' and 'Number of Motor Vehicles'.
- Enhance Question 45 (Method of Travel to Work) by replacing 'walked only' with 'walk'. This will allow respondents to select walk in isolation, or in conjunction with other modes to more accurately represent the way people travel.

- Extend list of responses to Question 45 (Method of Travel to Work) by including additional modes of travel (such as 'ride share') to establish a longitudinal benchmark for emerging modes of travel and allow a more accurate representation of the way people travel. In this context, 'ride-share' to distinguish between 'Car as Passenger' as the driver is not from within the same household, and also between 'Taxi', as vehicle may not necessarily be licensed as such. It would include both mobility provided as a commercial service, and co-operative schemes for people (not from the same household) to travel together. We anticipate a clearer, more concise definition will be apparent closer to 2021.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Mode of travel to work

☐

Name and address of workplace attended

☐

Number of motor vehicles

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

At present, ABS Census Method of Travel to Work data (in conjunction with other Census transport data, such as Distance to Work and Number of Motor Vehicles) provides one of the most fundamental insights into the function of our transport system across the country. This data is heavily relied upon by local and state governments, transport practitioners, researchers and businesses:

- to understand the way people travel on a range of levels, from local areas to statewide and nationwide aggregates
- to measure the impact of transport interventions and initiatives
- to set policies, actions and targets for the transport function of their region, including monitoring
- to understand changes in the way we travel across different geographic areas and over time
- as a proxy for other measures, such as level of physical activity, economic

vitality etc.

This data is used to underpin transport planning and infrastructure decisions and monitor changes in the way we travel. 'Transport mode share', usually derived from Method of Travel to Work data, is an international benchmark for understanding the way people move.

Changes in the method of travel to work can be identified by comparison between census years, and used to evaluate behavioural change and the effectiveness of infrastructure investment by government. With rapid changes emerging the nature of transport provision, tracking these changes and their implications for national investment, revenue and welfare is vital.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) data is used on a range of levels, from national and state transport decision-making to local transport projects and initiatives. There is no other source which provide a comprehensive insight into transport mode share for the entire country outside of the ABS Census, particularly regional areas. A population-wide dataset allows all areas of Australia to understand how their local community travels to a fine grain of detail.

Coupled with other ABS datasets, Method of Travel to Work can provide detailed and valuable insights to aid transport (and broader) planning for our communities. This could include:

- Place of Work data – to understand how workers travel, based on their place of work
- Place of Usual Residence/Enumeration data – to understand how residents travel, based on their place of residence
- Demographic/socio-economic data – to understand how various demographic

or personal characteristics (such as income, need for assistance with core activities) may relate to, or impact, transport mode choice

- Employment data – to understand how people of various employments/occupations travel

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Method of Travel to Work data is already collected under the ABS Census and respondents are familiar with answering the associated questions.

Changing the response option at Question 45 from 'Walked only' to 'Walk' would allow respondents to select walking in conjunction with other modes of transport. Existing instructional text for multiple modes would clarify the ability to choose walking in conjunction with other modes, providing a more accurate representation of the way people move in our communities. This is not considered a material change in the complexity of the question and would not detriment the quality or accuracy of the outputs, nor would the introduction of additional options such as 'ride share'.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Method of Travel to Work data is already collected under the ABS Census. The proposed changes would not impact upon the nature of the question, willingness to respond nor impact any specific groups.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Method of Travel to Work data is already collected under the ABS Census. The proposed changes would introduce negligible difference in coding, but would create minor differences in the way data is presented (for example, 'walking' combined with other options in Table Builder, as well as additional modes such as 'ride share').

A small section of explanatory text may be required at Question 45 to explain 'ride share' to respondents.

These changes are not likely to introduce material complexity or cost to the additional Census questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Method of Travel to Work data is used by governments, transport practitioners and researchers to monitor the impacts of changes in various factors (infrastructure, land use, demographic shifts) on the transport network and the way we travel.

This monitoring requires data to be collected regularly, reliably and consistently over time. The importance of mode share for planning (particularly transport planning) will remain prevalent into the future, and the addition of mode options such as 'ride share' are likely to improve the relevance of these questions moving forward.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

You may wish to consider the following possible data sources and identify any barriers to access in your response.

- data which is collected for administrative purposes
- the topic is collected in an ABS survey or by another organisation
- data is produced through integration of existing data sources

There are other sources of transport mode share data, notably:

- ad-hoc or regular surveys, typically undertaken on an as-needs basis or on a small 'sample' scale
- state household travel surveys

However, these data sources can raise the following issues:

- Data represents a 'sample' and as such may not necessarily be representative of the population
- Inconsistency in the nature or regularity of data collection
- Uncertainty in the quality of data or quality control
- Inconsistency in sample sizes or characteristics of respondents (i.e. potential survey bias)
- Cost inefficiencies of many small surveys
- Unavailability of data for particular areas, particularly regional areas

Collection via the ABS Census remains the most effective, reliable and consistent way to collect this important transport and planning data.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

N/A

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 293397935

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Intersex human Rights Australia

What is your submission about?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

☐ Location

- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Please find attached an amended final submission by Intersex Human Rights Australia.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKG6-H.pdf](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 888154526

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The census fails to gather meaningful statistics on Motorcycle and PTW usage trends or current state of play. As this is a valid transport medium information should be gathered on its use.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Motorcycle & PTW use.

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data could be used to frame transport policy.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed on a by State basis.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

All criteria above are met.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

All criteria above are met.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

All criteria above are met.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is need for an ongoing collection of this data.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no adequately comprehensive other sources for this data and you already collect this information for cars and trains and bicycles but ignore motorcycles.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

All the motorcycling public is asking is that information can be gathered to allow framing of transport motorcycles as a viable transport option.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 927032174

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Ensuring the growth of motorcycle use is counted.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There ARE registration stats counted, abd registered addresses.
However, frequency of motorcycle use for commuting and recreational use is not counted.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 126573904

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

1

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

BMW Motorcycle Club of Victoria

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Include motorcycle/scooter transport as a principle means of transport rather than just “other”

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Dot point 2 and 3 would be relevant

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data should be collected for all states and territories. It's an Australia wide issue

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes to all the above. Just add it as another option on your travel mode on census day

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

No problem here

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

No problem here

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes. Important that data on transport modes is collected in every future census

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Not Australia wide



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 771902845

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Motorcycles incorporated within the census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Motorcycles

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data to be collected.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Easy and quick to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Consideration for specific groups required

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic is likely to remain relevant in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The topic is collected in an ABS survey or by another organisation.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 388027453

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Victoria BMW Motorcycle Club

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

PTW - Power Two Wheelers are a legitimate and understated form of transport.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

If other please specify

Power Two Wheelers

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, planning and monitoring regarding the legitimate use of motorcycles on our roads.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is easy to be collected.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes, it would

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

No, one only need to indicate if you ride a motorcycle

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes, considering the increase in motorcyclists and the illegal use of mobile phones endangering road users.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 531447583

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The inclusion of motorcycle ownership rates

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Number of motorcycles owned by individuals

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is a need for a national approach to data gathering to inform national policies

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A, simple question that asks each participant to nominate the number of motorcycles registered in their name

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

There are no sensitive issues relating to this question as similar questions regarding vehicle ownership are already asked

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This is a simple numerical question per each respondent

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Motorcycle ownership appears to be growing. There will be an ongoing need to

gather this data

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no other national sources that meet this need



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 700837920

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Victorian motorcycle council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Last minute submission having just become aware of the consultation process to request that a legitimate mode of transport is not excluded at the next census as it was in the last census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Utilization of vehicles, trip purposes (not only used for commuting to work), frequency of use, distances travelled, etc

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Motorcycles are a ready to go now congestion solution. They have been the fastest growing road user sector for most of the last decade. Industry sources indicate that there are almost twice the number of off-road bikes as registered on road bikes, so there are over two million motorcycles getting about for recreation, utility and discretionary purposes that are not well understood. As cities face population growth and pressure on limited space resources, understanding motorcycles, how, when, where and what they are used for will help substantially with transport policy planning.

The census needs to reflect this specialized personal transport mode.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

A broader understanding of motorcycle use and a broader understanding of the riding demographic is needed. How motorcycles are integrated into Australian society, how many owners also drive, how many households have more than one, where they are, what correlations exist with other key demographic dimensions etc, can help guide policy in multiple areas - employment, business planning, health in addition to transport policy.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

After the snub in the previous census, riders are very keen to share information about their bike usage. It won't be a big ask. Motorcycle use cuts across transport, recreation, personal expression, hobby, enthusiast, convenience, financial imperatives, sport, recreation, modern convenience, art, collection and other aspects of how we live our lives so motorcycling should be a possible answer to many broad possibly unintuitive questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As stated, riders would be keen to share information. Non riders won't care that motorcycles / motorcycling has appeared in multiple spots in the census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Give respondents the opportunity to express how they use their bikes and they will. This will not present an issue to coding or census design.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As our population increases and greater pressures are placed on road space, there will be a greater need for this information and trends in this area going forward.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Some broader statistics are collected in terms of registrations, sales etc, but self reported usage correlated with other demographic dimensions is not available.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Motorcycling is known to engage more parts of the brain at the same time than almost any other activity. It's known to have great mental health benefits. Off road riding is known to have excellent physical benefits. Recent studies confirm its congestion beating and environmental improving benefits (Leuven study) and a study in Paris confirmed that motorcycle use resulted in a net positive cash flow for the city. The promotion of motorcycling will bring these benefits, but better and broader data is needed.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 371835161

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The religion question. I understand the 2021 submission will be electronic, so "page space" should be less of an issue. With a new format and with "No religion" reaching over 30% of respondents, it's time to stop using a question that implies people do, or should, follow a religion because it means the numbers "practicing" a religion will be over-reported and that has implications for political decision-making as well as services planning etc. I would like to see the question broken into two parts - first determine whether or not the person actually practices a religion, then if so ask which religion.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is likely to be easily understood by respondents
The topic can be collected in a simple question or questions
Respondents will easily know the answer to the question(s)
The question(s) is easy and quick to answer

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question would remain optional, but a two step format should make it easier for some people to complete accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The additional question will not present major difficulties for coding the information, require extensive processing, significantly add to the overall cost of the Census, require a lengthy instruction or explanation. It is a simple Yes/No.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic is likely to remain relevant well into the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

It's an existing topic, the proposal just clarifies the question and will improve accuracy.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 857340092

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Informed-AUS

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

general public

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Informed-AUS proposes to add more questions to the national census focusing

on gathering more qualitative data to help inform Australian policy makers and give them indication of changing community expectations and opinion. Topics span household concerns, democratic processes, tax policy, indigenous affairs, public safety, drug policy, foreign affairs, affordable housing policy, religion and environmental matters.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Opinion of population on current affairs

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☒

Name

☒

Date of birth or age

☒

Children ever born

☐

Other/don't know

If other please specify

Opinion of population on current affairs

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Yes, all proposed questions gather insights on important policy matters that impact Australian society and can be altered through policy development and legislation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Yes, gathering qualitative insights from the entire population ensures that members of parliament can accurately access the opinions of the citizens that they represent.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Context around each question with a simple snapshot of the most recent legislation that the government has enacted relevant to the topic would be useful, not only to set the scene of the question but also communicate and share with respondents what the government has done on these progressive policy issues.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Yes, the questions merely ask for respondent opinions on current issues. Informed-AUS think that respondents would like the opportunity to share their opinions on important policy issues that impact their life.

It also enables discussion of these issues within households. There could be a low risk of households disagreeing on answers but it can be suggested that after discussion, a agreed upon answer could be reached.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Yes, we propose that checkboxes are presented to respondents with the ability to 'tick the box' with statements that the household agree with. This is an effective way to obtain opinions. Space can also be made available to comment.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Informed-AUS propose that every census, issues considered controversial or progressive be included in the national census. Australia had a referendum in 2017 on marriage equality which shows the preference of heads of state to propose questions to the entire population to gauge their opinion before making important policy change. Asking qualitative questions in the census prevents future referendums.

It will be fascinating for future researchers and interested parties to look back on past census data and see what progressive policy issues were contentious in that year.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No, there is no other existing efficient way to collect information from every

household in the country unless it is asked through a referendum which is a very expensive exercise (at least \$122 million for the 2017 same-sex marriage postal plebiscite).

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

It is highly important that governments recognise that households want additional avenues and more opportunities to communicate with their elected members, feel heard and represented accordingly. This is a great way to facilitate more of this communication.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKZH-P.docx](#)



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 355292630

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Question relating to registered vehicles garaged at the residence needs both to specifically include motorcycles and to distinguish between motorcycles and cars.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Over recent years motorcycles/scooters represent the greatest increase in number of new motor vehicle registrations. While there is a question in the census concerning motorcycles as a means of transport to work, unlike cars the majority of motorcycles are used for recreation rather than commuting.

Proper data on where motorcycles are garaged would allow state governments and local councils better information on which to plan their infrastructure decisions and also policies in relation to parking, health care recreational planning etc.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question of how many registered motorcycles are garaged at the residence is easily understood and easily completed by the respondent. There is no need to change the existing question but simply change the definition of a vehicle to include motorcycles and provide a box to allow distinctions between motorcycles and cars.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question is not offensive or intrusive. In fact many motorcycle owners consider it offensive that the question is not asked as it implies their needs are not being considered and they are not important enough to be counted in the Census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The cost of collecting the data as part of the census will be insignificant and is likely the most efficient way to collect the data.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Motorcycles represent a growing proportion of motor vehicles. This trend is likely to continue as road congestion and travel times increase. This trend is likely to continue for some time and consequently there will be a need for the data trend in to the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While options to collect the data in other ways exist, collection as part of the census is likely to be the most effective and economical means of data collection.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Motorcycles and cars operate differently and there is a need to take these specific needs into consideration in terms of road safety, provision of infrastructure and related government policy. This has not occurred for a long time and this has often been to the detriment of riders. Governments are finally starting to recognise motorcycles in their planning policies but there is a long way to go. Having better data relating to motorcycle ownership will assist more appropriate policy decisions.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 996302041

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The question "What is the person's religion?" should be replaced with "Does the person practice a religion?" followed by "No religion". The problem with the current question ("What is the person's religion?") assumes a religion.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The question "What is the person's religion?" should be replaced with "Does the person practice a religion?" followed by "No religion". The problem with the current question ("What is the person's religion?") assumes a religion.

Knowing whether individuals practice a religion is nationally important for determining the strength of religious sentiment in Australia and useful for

formulating policy positions, research, planning and potentially legislative purposes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The question "Does the person practice a religion?" generates data that is relevant to all population groups in Australia. This information, when combined with the other questions related to religion collected in the Census, will enhance our picture of religion in Australia,

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The question "Does the person practice a religion?" can be easily understood by respondents as it is a simple question requiring a quick and simple answer. The respondents will easily know the answer to the question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question "Does the person practice a religion?" will be acceptable to a wide range of groups, religious groups will gain a better understanding of religious practice and secular groups will better a better understanding of the strength of religious observance in Australia. The neutrality of the question and it's personal nature mean respondents are best placed to answer accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic will not create significant coding or additional processes as it requires a yes or no answer. Because of the shortness of the question and response options, the inclusion of the question will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation and will not create additional costs.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The question "Does the person practice a religion?" will provide ongoing relevant time series data.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The information generated by the question "Does the person practice a religion?" is not comprehensively collected through existing data sources.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

N/A





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 386539500

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Redacted text is looking for the Census 2021 to provide statistical data to determine the linkages between having someone diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (generally listed as a 'Learning Disorder') and a) their ability to sustain full-time work, b) the increase likelihood of a parent or caregiver assisting in unpaid work to assist their child at home and c) the likelihood of higher education involvement.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Disability and carers

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Need for assistance
- ☐ Unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person)
- ☐



Other/unknown

If other please specify

Education

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The importance of including ADHD information into the census will enable information which can be used in both educational support programs and medical research.

ADHD (Attention Deficit, Hyperactivity Disorder) is a complex, lifelong, neurobiological condition that exists on a spectrum of mild to severe. This developmental disorder affects approximately 5% of the child and adult population. This means that right now 1.2 million Australians are affected...not to mention their families, teachers, classrooms, workplaces, relationships and much more.

People with mild ADHD may be able to cope through a series of behavioural measures, psychological supports and coaching. More severe forms may be debilitating socially, emotionally and physically and require multimodal treatment. Such multimodal treatment can include psychiatric, psychological clinical assistance and medications.

Many people with ADHD experience other conditions simultaneously with their ADHD. It is common for someone with ADHD to also suffer from anxiety, depression, autism, learning difficulties such as dyslexia and behavioural disorders to a greater or lesser degree. From the growing body of international research, we also know that ADHD is highly linked to genetic factors and is inherited. It may not disappear in adult life.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The value of including information on the prevalence of ADHD within the Census will be most effective if it is combined with other characteristics such as:

- a. Caregiver time to assist children with unpaid care
- b. Incidence across geographic areas
- c. Comparison of metro and regional caregiver assistance when compared with professional (paid) assistance
- d. effect of ADHD and levels of ability to attain higher education degrees (learning difficulties) and the assistance required to maintain higher levels of education.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

ADHD and other 'Learning Disorders' (such as Autism) impacts individuals and families across Australia and will be something easily understood by those completing the census due to they themselves, or their children, having being diagnosed with the learning difficulty disorder.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Anecdotal evidence from persons **Redacted text** have spoken to with children who have been diagnosed with ADHD have been looking for evidence-based (statistical information) which indicates the daily struggles which they have in caring for, assisting with, educating their children who have been diagnosed with ADHD.

Those parents with ADHD diagnosed children, we believe, would welcome the chance to contribute this information which would also go a long way in more accurately understanding the Australian incidence/experience of care, especially comparing between metropolitan and rural communities.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

ADHD is a diagnosed disorder and has been in the media as a topic of conversation regularly. Instructions of what ADHD would only need to be minimal and can be efficiently incorporated into a list of other learning disorder disabilities.

There would need to be only minimal question/s and not multiple questions for this to be added to the census.

The ability to cross reference between knowing the person having ADHD and information such as carer responsibilities with geographical and demographical information will show a stronger and more accurate picture of this learning disorder across Australia within differing communities. The other demographic

and geographic information is already collected and would be efficient to use the Census data with an ADHD bias.

Adding a question on ADHD / Learning Difficulties within the census will enable charities such as **Redacted text** as well as the Education Department a clearer understanding of the incidence of ADHD within the communities across Australia and the challenges families have in caring for children.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Understanding the long term impact of learning disorders to paid work and carer responsibilities is and will remain relevant for the Australian community. If, as a community, we can understand the impact of ADHD and the incidence then we can understand if the support structures, educational, medical measures which are put in place really do assist with improving outcomes for individuals and parents of children with ADHD. There would be a need to retain ADHD questions within future census collections.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Understanding the incidence across Australia and the interplay this has with carer support along with the educational achievement cannot be handled with another single survey. The Census data gives the opportunity to cross reference with many demographical and geographical information already contained within the Census. ADHD impact is complex on a family and individual nature and the question of this disorder is best placed within a methodology which is delivered to a wide variety of individual households across Australia.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Attached is an outline of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and of **Redacted text** as background information on what we, as an organisation, is trying to achieve and why we are making this submission - which is our vision of supporting those with ADHD within Australia.
Kind regards.

Attachments

☐ [ANON-9KFG-XKGF-1.docx](#)





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 289992714

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

That the Census recognises motorcycles and other powered two wheel vehicles as legitimate forms of transport that can significantly reduce urban traffic

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

While a lot of attention and infrastructure is provided for unpowered two wheel vehicles, powered types are ignored. While a lot of the population has taken up so called SUVs in place of sedans, these vehicles, often with only one occupant, take up a lot of road space compared to a powered two wheel vehicle. I propose that attention be given to reducing the access to city areas of such SUVs and promoting powered two wheel vehicles as a means of reducing "traffic", which is mainly four wheeled vehicles in city areas.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 895740034

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Adding motorcyclists into the census

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 713698699

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

National group representing State & Territory government departments, local

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Cycling and Walking Australia and New Zealand (CWANZ)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Transport NSW
Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Victoria
Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
Department of Transport, WA
Department of State Growth, Tasmania
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, NT
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, ACT Government
RAC WA
Amy Gillett Foundation
Heart Foundation
Victoria Walks
We Ride Australia
Bicycle Network
Bicycle Queensland
Central Coast Council
Cairns Regional Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We propose that the following options are considered for inclusion in the 2021 Census:

1. Include journey to place of education data.
2. When selecting mode of transport to work or education, allow for a combination of walking with other transport (e.g. car, car passenger, walking & bus, walking & train, cycling etc.). Specifically, our proposals are:

1. Following the question "How did the person get to place of work on DAY,DATE MONTH 2021?", add question "How did the person get to place of education on DAY,DATE MONTH 2021?"
 2. Under options for method of travel, change "Walked only" to "Walked".
- The inclusion of this data will help inform future policy and planning when managing road and other transport networks.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work

- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As government agencies at all levels (local, state and federal) look at ways to develop sustainable transport options and implement strategies and actions to improve conditions for alternative options, data is needed about the ways that people get to work and to places of education to develop policy and plan for future use. Data is also needed to benchmark whether strategies put in place to increase the number of people using forms of transport other than motor vehicles have had an effect. Walking is often an integral part of a journey to work or place of education (e.g. walking to a bus stop or train station), however, at present, data on walking as part of a journey is not captured in current census questions. Data on the number of people that incorporate walking into their daily journey to their place of work or education,

will assist in incorporating walking options in policy development and planning. Though the inclusion of transport to education, as well as work, this will help identify more accurately the number of people using transport systems during peak hours and the mode they are using, and therefore assist with planning for managing transport during those times.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Incorporating these questions in the 2021 census will achieve two aims:

1. Create a more complete picture of the number and mode of transport people are using during peak times to get to work or a place of education; and
2. Provide consistent, directly comparable data across the whole of the population about how people get to work or their place of education.

By being able to break that information down into smaller geographic regions, areas where transport options such as walking are not utilised as much can be identified, and strategies put in place to improve conditions and ultimately uptake.

The data about journey to education, will also be able to be cross-referenced with data collected elsewhere in the Census on educational institution and, for example, whether there are any correlations between type of educational institution and mode of travel.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves. The proposed changes are minor modifications/additions of an existing question, and it has been demonstrated that:

- They will be easily understood by respondents;

- The data collected will be through the modification of one option for an existing question and the

- replication with a minor change to that question;

- Respondents will easily know the answer to the questions; and

- The questions are quick and easy to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

how respondents get to their place of work. The topic is not considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Not only would respondents likely to be willing and able to answer the questions accurately, but the responses are likely to be more accurate than the previous census, as there are options that may be more relevant to the respondents.

There are no considerations for specific groups.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic can be collected efficiently as the questions are minor additions to data already collected. There is an existing code for Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP), which can be cross-referenced with Method of Travel to Work (MTWP), therefore no extra coding is required for that. Method of Travel to Work (or Education), will require the addition of categories to incorporate multi-modal options including:

- Train, walking
- Bus, walking
- Ferry, walking
- Tram, walking
- Taxi, walking
- Car as driver, walking
- Car as passenger, walking
- Truck, walking
- Motorbike/scooter, walking
- Bicycle, walking
- Walking, other
- Train, bus, walking
- Train, ferry, walking
- Train, tram, walking etc.

Apart from the additional categories, this should not require extensive processing, as it is already in place.

There may be the requirement for some instruction so respondents consider their entire journey, e.g. including walking to the bus stop/train station as part of their journey to work or education, but it will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation.

The topic will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions, as it is the modification of one option in an existing question, and the addition of education is the addition of one question.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a continuing need for data on this topic as alternative forms of transport are being increasingly considered by respondents and planners alike. Time series data is required to determine changes in the number of people using different forms of transport, enabling planners and policy makers to cater for future needs.

This topic is likely to remain relevant in the future as there will always be a requirement for people to travel to places of work and education, and therefore consistent data at a national level about how they do that is vital for future transport management.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data is collected by individual agencies on the number of people using public transport, the number of cars on the road and, to a growing degree, the number of cyclists, there is currently no consistent, national level data being collected on:

1. The purpose of the journey e.g. to work, education, shops etc.
2. Whether the journey incorporates walking.

The only data collected on these topics will be small surveys on an ad hoc basis.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

To improve the conditions for, and uptake of, cycling and walking as transport options, Cycling and Walking Australian and New Zealand (CWANZ) is collaborating at a national level, representing all state and territory transport agencies, plus advocacy groups and local councils. Its objectives are to:

1. Make the case for cycling and walking liveable, healthy and productive communities.
 2. Increase investment in cycling and walking from all levels of government.
 3. Apply innovation and learning in all that we do.
 4. Enable national consistency and harmonisation to ensure a national approach is taken to implement strategies and actions that will rapidly improve the conditions for, and uptake of, cycling and walking on Australia and New Zealand transport and recreation networks.
- The inclusion of the proposed topic and questions will provide essential data to enable CWANZ to develop the strategies and actions required to achieve its objectives. This will lead to informed policy development and planning for transport at a local, state and federal level, improving conditions for everyone.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 928117172

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

There is apparent growth in the number of people who are reliant on powered two wheeler vehicles (motorcycles and scooters) for their main or multimode transport provision for work and ensuring livelihood. Without capturing these trends State and Federal Government cannot really consider the needs of this group in road, amenity and town planning. Some State governments levy motorcycles within the registration tax but do not appear to provide services based on this levy.

There is the opportunity to start to understand the extended patterns of transportation and the place of powered two wheelers in the Australian context and to use the data for planning

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Comparison of work and leisure related travel for each mode of transport

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

This is a multi-factor need for information related to Powered Two Wheelers with the following themes:

1. City and Urban Planning
2. Road planning and maintenance (especially important as powered two wheelers are more susceptible to poor quality roads than their four or more-wheeled counterparts). Important to understand how they can assist in the reduction of congestion
3. Health considerations - reductions in fumes, particulate matter, service provision (accident and emergency, acute care)
4. Fuel security - lower fuel consumption than cars, powered two wheelers can reduce the reliance on fossil fuels by their relative improved efficiency.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The comparison of different municipalities and across states will help identify where powered two wheelers will benefit society and should be promoted. Also within sectors of society. Primary industries historically have been reliant on powered two wheelers to assist in our agronomy. We should understand their place in our food security.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The questions should be an extension of the current transport option questions initially with a percentage usage comparison between modes. Once this is included there should be a simple seasonal usage set of questions as susceptibility to weather and season may be a factor for some. A percentage usage question covering work and leisure plus duration travelled in the day will give indications of the impact on the environment and transportation generally. These should all be relatively easy to collect and transform into insights.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

With a good brief explanation of the needs for the collection of this data, there is likely to be a positive response as it is an area of interest for many that the Census has not been covering. There are no apparent discriminatory risks associated with the collection and use of the data and likely only net benefit at State/Territory and Federal level, local municipalities and interest groups.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By expanding existing datasets and adding two of three sufficiently focused questions on specific modes of use of powered two wheelers, this should be relatively easy to collect and will yield information that is currently missing from service planning considerations.

If the modes of seasonal, work.v.leisure use, distance/time travelled in the day are either conditional on selection of powered two wheelers as a mode or extended questions for all modes of transport, then this should be easy to assimilate into the questionnaire.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Gaining an understanding of the trends for transportation is already a major theme for the census; extending the dataset to consider the use of powered two wheelers will give greater granularity to the subject.

ABS might also choose to differentiate ebikes from non-assisted bicycles as a further improvement that considers the changes in the marketplace and the

impact that has on extending citizens' willingness to travel on two wheels. This should be a separate group to powered two wheelers as range and speed limitations are major differentiators.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no known comparative and reliable alternative studies or sources of information on this subject.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

As a multi-mode transport user, my 35km commute is generally by motorbike, train or car in that order. Per month it amounts to 12 days using a powered two wheeler, 7-9 days by train and <1 by car. However, that pattern is invisible in the current dataset.

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Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 436695388

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☒ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Disability and Health Unit, Centre for Health Equity University of Melbourne

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Our submission recommends that ABS include one question on low prevalence chronic conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease and cerebral palsy that have significant impacts on morbidity. This information cannot be reliably obtained from alternative sources, as, unlike other higher prevalence chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes), there are no comprehensive population registers for them or population surveys which yield reliable estimates of prevalence . Given the introduction of the NDIS, it is vital that government and researchers understand the population profile of potential participants in the scheme. Having reliable information on both the prevalence and socio-demographic characteristics of the sub-population with low prevalence chronic conditions will greatly aid the planning, forecasting and assessment of both the effectiveness and cost of the NDIS.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Reliable population-level data on low prevalence chronic conditions is needed for both policy implementation and planning, and research purposes. For example, a large proportion of people with low prevalence conditions are likely to be NDIS recipients. The NDIS is a significant policy reform and a \$22 billion investment. Having reliable information on the prevalence and demographic

characteristics of people with low prevalence chronic conditions would greatly strengthen the forecasts of future need and costs of the NDIS. Furthermore, the rich socio-demographic information from the census will also greatly improve our understanding of the population with low prevalence conditions. For example, researchers will be able to assess levels of education and employment for people with a low prevalence chronic condition and compare this to the general population.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Whole of population data is essential because no other surveys, including the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), will have sufficient numbers to specifically examine low prevalence chronic conditions. Including low prevalence chronic conditions is important because it will enable researchers to investigate to smaller sociodemographic groups (e.g. ATSI, educational status, language spoken at home, rural/regional/remote) and at small area levels: This will facilitate valid comparisons between people with and without a given low prevalence chronic condition across different sociodemographic groups. Further, in combination with existing questions on functioning from the census, users will be able to assess the extent to which a low prevalence chronic condition is potentially disabling for individuals.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This question can be easily to answered. We suggest a series of tick-boxes where respondents can identify the chronic condition(s) they have.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This question unlikely to be intrusive or offensive. For example, this question is also asked in the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Given that the question is simple, we do not anticipate it would significantly impact on costs. However, it will need to be asked in relation to all household members. We recommend that there need to a consultation on which low prevalence conditions should be included as tick-box options.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Information on low prevalent chronic conditions will continue to be relevant for government social policy into the future. For example, the NDIS is a permanent reform to the delivery of services which are likely to affect many people with a low prevalence chronic condition. Reliable information on these individuals is needed to ensure that government can plan and assess the NDIS's effectiveness in relation to improving the lives of people enrolled in the scheme.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Alternative sources of data on low prevalence chronic conditions are not of sufficient quality to conduct reliable, high quality research. Sample surveys do not have enough statistical power, and there are is a lack of population-based registers for conditions such as multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 809855186

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Unpaid work/carers

The 'unpaid work' topic covers four components of unpaid work: unpaid domestic work; unpaid care of others due to disability, illness or old age; unpaid care of children; and voluntary work. This submission focuses on Question 49 of this topic ('in the last two weeks did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term illness or problems related to old age?'), and how this relates to estimates of informal carers.

Rearrange the order of questions

Some people who provide unpaid care for people with disability may not be identified as such because of the relative positioning of the questions on the need for assistance and those on the provision of unpaid care. Census questions about core activity need for assistance have been positioned in question numbers 20–23, while the questions about unpaid work have been positioned much further down in question numbers 48–51. Question 49 uses the words 'a disability, a long term illness or problems related to old age' to signify the reasons for the need for assistance with core activity that are

included in Question 23 of the topic on need for assistance. Some people may not be able to follow the intended connection between the two questions/topics, given the relative position of the questions.

The AIHW suggest that the ABS consider rearranging the positions of questions for the two topics (need for assistance and unpaid work) to put the two sets of questions as closely as possible in the Census form, ideally sequentially. This would improve understanding of the intent of the questions and thus the identification of unpaid carers for people with disability.

Better align the concept/definition of a carer

The current version of Question 49 asks about assistance provided in the previous two weeks and does not directly define the type of assistance being provided. The reference time period ('in the previous two weeks') could also potentially exclude people who have been providing unpaid care of a person with disability but did not provide care during the two weeks before the Census date for various reasons.

The AIHW suggests the ABS better align the concept/definition of a carer of someone with disability, illness or old age to that used in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC). For example, expand the reference time period for Questions 49 from 'in the last two weeks' to be consistent with the SDAC. The SDAC defines a carer as a person who provides any informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to people with disability or older people (aged 65 years and over). Assistance must be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months.

These changes are not intended to replace the highly valued ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) which collects more detailed information on carers, much like other ABS surveys collect more detailed information on other key population groups than is available in the Census.

Scope of this submission

Note that this submission focuses on improving the utility of the question on informal carers, and does not propose an intensity measure, even though that would dramatically improve the information on the capacity of the informal care sector.

Such a proposal is not included because we assessed that suitable measures would unlikely pass the criteria set out in this form. However, the AIHW would be very pleased to continue discussions with the ABS should such a proposal be considered suitably significant.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Detailed data on this topic are important for monitoring national initiatives related to carers, such as progress against the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services (which will follow on from the previous National Carers Strategy) and priorities related to carers under the National Disability Strategy.

Informal carers play an important role in the lives of many people with disability, providing essential support either in place of, or in addition to, formal services. As such, the ability to identify informal carers of people with disability and examine the level of care they provide will also assist in monitoring and evaluating major national reforms to disability policy and service delivery, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). For example, the level of support provided to people with disability not only affects the person with disability themselves, but can also significantly affect their informal carers. It can also have impacts on the broader system if the balance of supports is not right, with people potentially needing to seek additional support for either themselves or for the person they care for.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Detailed data on this topic are highly policy relevant and essential for understanding the carer population at small geographic areas, as well as for calculating estimates for small population groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These groups are not well enumerated in other key sources (for example, in the ABS SDAC).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Given the relative position of the current two questions/topics (need for assistance and unpaid work), some people might not readily see the intended connection between them. Changes to the positions of questions for the two topics to put them as closely together as possible in the Census form will improve understanding of the intent of the questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The unpaid work/carers topic has been included in a number of Censuses and is well accepted. The changes proposed would not affect this.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed changes to the topic are minor and would not affect the ability to collect efficiently collect.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given major reforms underway in disability and carer policy and service delivery, this topic will remain highly relevant in the future. There will be a need for time series data on this topic to monitor and evaluate how these reforms have influenced the lives of carers and the people they care for.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The changes proposed are not intended to replace the highly valued ABS SDAC which collects more detailed information on carers. The coverage of the SDAC, however, does not include people living in very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and, as such, it may underestimate these important groups.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 477342758

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Census Need for Assistance

It is essential that the disability topic continues to be part of Censuses going forward. The ability to disaggregate data by disability (and especially by people who need assistance with basic daily activities) is essential to monitor and evaluate major national reforms to disability policy and service delivery.

Expand the output

The AIHW proposes that, if the current disability measure (the 'Core activity need for assistance' topic) is maintained as is, that the ABS expand the output. The 'Core activity need for assistance' topic has been included since the 2006 Census to measure the number of people needing help in one or more of the three activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication (so-called 'core' activities). The output for the 'Core activity need for assistance' topic is a derived total number of people needing help with core activities ('Core Activity Need for Assistance' variable), and does not detail which of the three activities resulted in the need for assistance. Modifying the current output to detail each individual activity would allow separate identification of the number of people needing help with each activity.

Expand the topic coverage

In light of recent major reforms to disability policy and service delivery, the AIHW suggests the ABS consider expanding the need for assistance topic. The Census questions about core activity need for assistance were designed to be conceptually comparable to questions about profound or severe core activity limitation in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC). This does not cover all 'life domains' as conceived in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), and it does not cover people with milder forms of disability.

Expanding the breadth of activities (to go beyond the simply the core activities) along with expanding the depth of the level of need categories (to enable enumeration of 'disability status' beyond profound or severe) would allow for a more detailed assessment of a person's level of functioning and need for support in everyday activities. For example, something like the below matrix-type approach could be used within a Census to capture a wider disability population. Such a set of questions is broadly consistent with the short disability questions that the ABS uses in a number of its social surveys and is grounded in the ICF. This matrix could be followed by additional questions about specific education and employment restrictions to ensure comprehensive coverage of the ICF domains. The matrix below was designed by the AIHW for the Standardised Disability Flag, intended for broad application in a variety of settings.

An expansion of the need for assistance topic is not intended to replace the highly valued ABS SDAC, which collects more detailed information on people with disability, much like other ABS surveys collect more detailed information on other key population groups than is available in the Census.

If the Census need for assistance topic is to be changed, the AIHW does not support the Washington Group questions as a replacement for this topic (see 'Additional comments' section for detail).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

(

- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data on people with disability inform the development of federal and state/territory government policies and community-based programs, including both disability-specific and mainstream services. In particular, major reforms to disability policy and service delivery over the next few years, such as the completion of the national roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the release of the new National Disability Strategy (NDS), will need to be monitored and evaluated using comprehensive and high quality data about people with disability, especially people who need assistance with basic daily activities. If the topic was not included in the 2021 Census, there would be

no alternative data sources that could be used for such important national measures and indicators, particularly for groups not well enumerated elsewhere.

In particular, the ability to articulate a broader story—with reforms such as the NDIS included in the context of the wider disability population—will be critical to governments' understanding of the costs of, and pressure on, key systems and supports, as well as of the impact of these reforms on the experiences of, and outcomes for, the wider population of people with disability (not just those with severe or profound core activity limitation). This cannot be achieved without obtaining good estimates of a wider population of people with disability, both those who are eligible for the NDIS (including the subset who, for whatever reason, do not use the NDIS) and those who are not eligible (such as many with mild or moderate disability). The current Census core activity need for assistance topic does not enumerate all of this population.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Detailed data on the need for assistance topic are highly policy relevant and essential for estimates of disability and the potential population for disability services for small geographic areas and small population groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and the population in a particular small area. These groups are either not well enumerated in other key data sources (such as the ABS SDAC), or output from those sources is precluded because of reliability concerns.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

An expanded need for assistance topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves. A similar approach to that proposed for expanding the need for assistance topic is currently used in the AIHW's Standardised Disability Flag for mainstream data collections. This flag is designed for use in collections covering a wide range of sectors, many of which have little experience with disability. To ensure that it could be accurately and effectively collected by people with limited exposure to this topic, the AIHW consulted with experts in disability concepts and measurement during the development of the Flag. Draft versions were then tested and refined through a series of focus groups, cognitive interviews and pilot testing. Pilot testing confirmed that the Standardised Disability Flag module was suitable for completion by the general public in a range of settings. Each of these development components also included input from people with lived experience of disability.

Versions of the AIHW need for assistance matrix have been successfully implemented in the AIHW's Specialist Homelessness Services Collection and National Prisoner Health Data Collection, and are in the process of being implemented within other AIHW collections.

While it is acknowledged that an expanded matrix will add to the respondent burden, this is justified by the vastly improved depth and breadth of the collected data.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The need for assistance topic has been included in a number of Censuses and appears to be well accepted. More comprehensive measurement of health, functioning and disability have been used in ABS surveys for many decades,

and appear to be well tolerated.

The topic of disability and disability support services engenders strong community interest generally, and typically has bipartisan support when considered by the Australian Parliament.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The expanded matrix as designed for the Standardised Disability Flag can be presented efficiently on a printed page. However, this was designed for a single respondent, so some consideration of how to format this effectively for multiple household respondents would need to occur. (For the online form, this is not so much an issue because the matrix can simply be served up for each respondent.)

The coding has been designed into the question, so there is a simple mapping of the response categories to the output data items.

The AIHW would suggest that for the topic to function well—to accurately measure disability as described by the ICF—there should be a short preamble to explain that the need for assistance is in the context of a health condition.

The number of questions and response categories is no more than required to fully cover the activity domains classified in the ICF.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the

following Census.

Continuing need

The need for information on people with disability at a population level, especially for small population groups and small areas, will become increasingly important as major national reforms to disability policy and service delivery are rolled out. There will be a need to evaluate the impact of these reforms over time.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS SDAC is the gold standard for measuring disability prevalence. However, the coverage of the SDAC does not include people living in very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Further, the SDAC does not support direct estimates at a small area level, or for small population groups of policy interest. The Census need for assistance topic allows analysis of the characteristics of these important groups.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The AIHW is aware that various stakeholders have advocated to include the Washington Group questions on disability. The AIHW does not support the inclusion of these questions in the Census. Factors to consider are:

- The resulting data are not comparable with other Australian data from the ABS SDAC or surveys which use the ABS short disability module in terms of scope, conceptual definition, severity scales, and the levels and types of disability. This will in turn create confusion in defining disability prevalence. In the current environment, it is critical that a definition of people with disability is consistent and transparent.
- The data are inadequate to identify the potential target population for disability services: the current Census questions provide information about the number of people who need help with basic daily activities. These people have been considered as the main potential target population of disability-related services. The four categories of response thresholds/scales for the Washington Group questions (No—no difficulty; Yes—some difficulty; Yes—a lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all) do not provide information about whether people who have ‘some difficulty’ or ‘a lot of difficulty’ need help with basic daily activities; and whether people who ‘cannot do at all’ will be able to do basic daily activities with help. Consequently, the information gathered using these questions would not meet current service planning and policy development requirements.
- The Washington Group’s questions are designed for a different purpose—they are useful for countries without a comprehensive disability survey (such as the SDAC) or for a component of surveys that are not specifically designed for disability collections.
- Non-inclusion of the short set questions in the Australian Census would not compromise Australian’s ability to report—data for international comparisons using the Washington Group questions may be derived from the SDAC, or potentially the Census if the breadth and depth of the topic is expanded.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 34435640

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group strongly contend the importance of including additional questions in the national census to collect data on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex diversity. In our view, if government policy makers want to better support LGBTIQ people in Australia to better meet their needs, more inclusive data must be collected. Given the confidentiality and expertise that the Australian Bureau of Statistics applies in all their large scale surveys, this organisation is well placed authority to lead Australia into a future of knowing more about LGBTIQ people in Australia.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

At this point in time, there is limited major national data collection that documents statistics about people's sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex diversity in Australia. This means, like the situation in the United States, many questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer people remain unanswered (Anderson 2018). While we have limited data from a range of smaller research projects, we do not yet know about the specifics of how they are represented in terms of employment, housing, family circumstances, health and well-being, and the marginalisation and discrimination they are subjected to.

We have statistics on same-sex couples now collected by the national census in household data, but we do not have national demographic data on which people in Australia identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) and where. We have some surveys conducted in some major metropolitan areas that attempt to do this, but typically they do this from the perspective of only one part of these communities (such as the Gay Community Periodic Survey focused on gay and bisexual men, or the Writing Themselves series that targets young people that identify as same sex attracted and gender questioning), but typically responses are congregated in metropolitan areas and do not document the voices of those living in regional and rural Australia, and folks living in these areas are often subject to more discrimination and marginalisation than other parts of Australia. Organisations across Australia use the national census data (such as government and non-government agencies, businesses, researchers, journalists, etc) to more fully understand what Australia looks like in terms of socioeconomic characteristics. If we continue to lack an accurate count of LGBTIQ people in Australia, services and programs across the public and private sectors will continue to miss out LGBTIQ people as a significantly vulnerable population. The federal government heavily relies upon the national census data from the ABS to make decisions about how and where to allocate funding, particularly for vulnerable communities. LGBTIQ communities are definitely considered one of the most marginalised, vulnerable communities in Australia. These communities are still marked by increased risk of suicide and victimisation.

These forms of data are vital for a range of reasons, some of which are discussed further by Irlam (2012):

- because we do not have any data that tells us about how many LGBTIQ people exist in Australia
- because without this data, these communities will continue to be invisible when it comes to allocation of funding for community support organisations and government policy (particularly in rural and regional areas of Australia), something of great importance considering the data we have around their overrepresentation in statistics on mental health, substance use, and suicide
- because without inclusive, comprehensive data, we will not know about how effective programs are that seek to support employment, health care, education, housing, and other social services for LGBTIQ people in Australia
- because we can better record and monitor human rights concerns impacting upon LGTBIQ people in Australia
- because we have no data to date that helps us to challenge assumptions and misperceptions about LGBTIQ communities in Australia, and myths and

stereotypes will continue to inform organisational policy and practice (such as the myth that LGBTIQ people are affluent, where data internationally suggests they are in fact more often living in poverty)

- because, while data collection is always fraught with issues and rarely absolutely correct or complete, we are as yet to be unable to say conclusively how many people identify with diverse sexualities and genders in Australia
- because in being unable to say these things with statistics, we cannot extrapolate research populations
- and because in being unable to say these things, we are behind many other major Western countries around the world

Including these questions in the national census will enable the federal government to produce comprehensive data that can inform public policy impacting upon LGBTIQ communities in Australia.

Anderson, A. (2018, April 23). The census will officially count same-sex couples for the first time ever – but that's not enough. The Conversation. Accessed online 28 June 2018 at: <https://theconversation.com/the-census-will-officially-count-same-sex-couples-for-the-first-time-ever-but-thats-not-enough-89902>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As noted above, the current data collection processes that we have in place, that are often focused on specific segments of LGBTIQ communities across Australia, do not provide us with a full, detailed picture of the lives of LGBTIQ people. First, these surveys are often focused on just one section of LGBTIQ communities in Australia, meaning the lives of others are not recorded and the realities of their living conditions are unknown. Second, as responses are often congregated in metropolitan areas of large central business districts, we have little, if any, understanding of the lives of those living in suburbia, but more importantly no knowledge of those living in rural and regional areas where LGBTIQ people often experience significant discrimination and disadvantage.

We know from existing research that the lives of LGBTIQ people can be incredibly complex, and they can often experience more than one form of disadvantage and become engaged in criminal processing systems simply because they are defending themselves against discrimination and harassment. We must better understand the intersectionality of these complex lives so that we have clear data on what disadvantage looks like in Australia for LGBTIQ people and how we can better support them. This is why we need to be able to combine data about LGBTIQ status with other characteristics collected in the Census. We need to understand, for example, whether or not LGBTIQ people are in fact more affluent in Australia and are less likely to live in poverty – at this point in time, we cannot conclusively answer this question with the data we have. We need to understand how many families may exile young people that disclose their status as non-binary from their homes. We need to understand the extent to which unemployment impacts people who are transgender in comparison with people who are not transgender (Holtzberg et al 2017). These are questions that as yet we cannot answer in Australia.

Enabling the collection of data on smaller population groups within LGBTIQ communities is also important to understand their specific experiences (for instance, intersex people can often experience discrimination and harassment similar to transgender people). We also need this because LGBTIQ people may not label themselves the same way that others may label them. As noted by the National LGBTI Health Alliance Discussion Paper (Irlam 2012, p. 4), “[p]eople who are classified as transgender by others may self-identify simply as women or men. For example, someone who was assigned male at birth and whose documents list her sex as ‘M’ - may select woman as her gender and ‘F’ as her sex on a survey and not identify themselves as transgender”. We must better understand the nuance of experiences across and within smaller population groups in LGBTIQ communities in Australia if we are to better support overall health and wellbeing and positive life outcomes for these communities.

Holtzberg, J., Ellis, R., Virgile, M., Nelson, D., Edgar, J., Phipps, P., and Kaplan, R. (2017). “Assessing the Feasibility of Asking about Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Focus Groups with Members of the Transgender Population.” Technical Report, Center for Survey Measurement, U.S. Census Bureau; Office of Survey Methods Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Irlam, C. B. (2012). LGBTI Data: developing an evidence-informed environment for LGBTI health policy, Sydney, National LGBTI Health Alliance.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Although a report from the United States, Ellis et al (2018) conducted a feasibility study of asking about sexual orientation and gender diversity in population surveys. Their interviews with people about this found that the majority of people found the questions about LGBTIQ status clear and easy to answer, more so than questions about employment, income, and disability. They also found an overwhelming willingness to provide this information to data collection organisations, and that the sensitive nature of these questions did not discourage willingness to disclose. Finally, the study found that it is imperative to consult with LGBTIQ people about the precise wording of these questions, and that LGBTIQ people were more than willing to provide this feedback. Consultation on the wording of these questions is imperative as researchers in this study found that transgender people, for instance, universally struggled with the sensitivity and difficulty of these questions. This study shows that, albeit a different country, the topic is likely to be easily understood and answered by respondents as they will know how to answer, and the data can be collected in a simple question/questions, but we need to consult with LGBTIQ people about specific wording.

Ellis, R., Virgile, M., Holzberg, J., Nelson, D., Edgar, J., Phipps, P., & Kaplan, R. (2017). "Assessing the Feasibility of Asking about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Cognitive Interviews." Technical Report, Center for Survey Measurement, U.S. Census Bureau; Office of Survey Methods Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It is clear that, even though people might think about themselves as being sexually attracted to the same sex, or they may only occasionally have same sex relations, for instance, this does not necessarily mean that people individuals are willing to identify themselves according to a category of gay (Federal Interagency Working Group, 2016). From the feasibility study conducted in the United States (Ellis et al 2018), it is clear that some people do read and answer questions about their sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex diversity as sensitive, but this does not make these people unwilling to answer the questions or respond. In fact, international research has found high levels of acceptability for routine collection of these statistics in other contexts (Cahill et al 2014) and there are online resources providing advice about how best to do this in clinical settings which may be useful to consider for the ABS Census approach (www.doaskdotell.org; Measuring Sexual Identity 2010: <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/e6033627-3106-47a9-a3fb-4bcaa34c1bcb/measuring-sexual-identity-evaluation-report>; Williams Institute: <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/geniuss-report-sep-2014.pdf>).

Cahill, S., Singal, R., Grasso, C., King, D., Mayer, K., Baker, K. & Makadon, H. (2014). "Do Ask, Do Tell: High Levels of Acceptability by Patients of Routine Collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Four Diverse American Community Health Centers." PLoS One, 9: e107104.

Ellis, R., Virgile, M., Holzberg, J., Nelson, D., Edgar, J., Phipps, P., & Kaplan, R. (2017). "Assessing the Feasibility of Asking about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Cognitive Interviews." Technical Report, Center for Survey Measurement, U.S. Census Bureau; Office of Survey Methods Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys (2016a). "Current Measures of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys." Accessed online 29 June 2018 at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/sitesusa/wp-content/uploads/sites/242/2014/04/WorkingGroupPaper1_CurrentMeasures_08-16.pdf

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

According to the feasibility studies conducted in the United States, these questions should not present any coding or processing difficulties, and the topic would not add to the overall cost of the Census, except perhaps in terms of consultation with LGBTIQ people about the wording of the questions. There may be areas that require further explanation in relation to this topic, but this can be easily formulated with consultation with LGBTIQ people.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This topic is definitely likely to remain relevant in the future. We are at a point in Australia where there are lots of changes happening that work towards ensuring the rights of LGBTIQ people are being upheld and respected. This means the contextual landscape around the lives of LGBTIQ people in Australia is changing rapidly and consistently. Time series data would greatly benefit tracking this shifting landscape.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As noted above, there are no other possible data sources that could meet this need at this time. Other research projects focused on recording data about these issues demonstrate responses typically from larger metropolitan centres. We need consistently collected, national data from all states that capture responses from regional and rural areas to ensure we deliver adequate policy and programs to support all LGBTIQ people Australians.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 828622880

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Ulysses Club inc

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Victorian Motorcycle Council
Australian motorcycle Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Given the 50% increase in motorcycle registrations over the last 10 years, and

the significant contribution that motorcycles can make to community benefit... Reducing congestion, releasing parking spaces, less footprint, environmental, efficiency, etc, surely Motorcycles and Scooters now need to be included as a separate and legitimate mode of transport, for both commuting and recreation. Motorcycling is now the fastest growing powered mode of transport in Australia and needs to be recognised as such within the transport spectrum.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Mode of travel to work

☐

Name and address of workplace attended

☐

Number of motor vehicles

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

50% increase in motorcycles over last 10 years

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

All relevant data is readily available from existing sources.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Motorcycle and Scooter use has increased 50% in last decade and is now the fastest growing mode of powered transport in Australia with numerous obvious advantages to the community. A 10% uptake in powered two wheel transport results in. 40% reduction in road and parking congestion. Motorcycle and Scooter use needs to be recognised as a separate and legitimate mode of transport and incorporated into future census so as to enable appropriate planning for this important and rapidly growing mode of transport. The unique differences between powered twowheelers (motorcycles), and other road user vehicles, requires significant identification for future planning reasons.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 875278786

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement will commence on 1 July 2018. A key output of the agreement is the development of a Housing and Homelessness Data Improvement Plan in 2018–19. The Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group will develop this plan. We expect the plan to include improvements to a range of data sources underpinning the national Agreement including (potentially) Census housing data in the following areas.

1. Landlord type

Government monitoring of the performance of the housing system would benefit from better alignment of concepts between the Census and social housing administrative data. For example, the Census enumerates fewer households in social housing than the administrative public housing, state-owned and managed Indigenous housing, community housing and Indigenous community housing data collections held by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (see Appendix B of Housing assistance for Indigenous Australians (2014) for more details on this issue). These data are provided to the AIHW by state and territory housing authorities for national reporting purposes.

We think there are opportunities to better share these administrative data that the AIHW collects with the ABS.

2. Household income

Currently, household income is derived by the ABS from reported categorical personal income data (Census question 33). This level of precision does not support analysis of housing affordability such as calculating the proportion of income spent on (or remaining after) housing costs. This is problematic as the Census is the only independent, national data source that provides whole of population data that could be used to monitor housing affordability across small geographic areas.

There are alternative methods that could potentially improve the reliability of the household income data.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement will commence on 1 July 2018. A key output of the agreement is the development of a Housing and Homelessness Data Improvement Plan in 2018–19. The Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group will develop this plan. We expect the plan to include improvements to a range of data sources underpinning the national Agreement including (potentially) Census housing data in the following areas.

1. Landlord type

One aspirational, overarching national outcome of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement is ‘a well-functioning social housing system that operates efficiently, sustainably and is effective in assisting low income households and priority homelessness cohorts to manage their needs’.

The Census enumerates fewer households in social housing than the administrative public housing, state-owned and managed Indigenous housing, community housing and Indigenous community housing data collections held by the AIHW (see Appendix B of Housing assistance for Indigenous Australians (2014) for more details on this issue). These data are provided to the AIHW by state and territory housing authorities for national reporting purposes.

We think there are opportunities to better share these administrative data that the AIHW collects with the ABS (see response to Assessment criteria 3).

Government monitoring of the performance of the housing system would benefit from better alignment of concepts between the Census and social housing administrative data. For example, the landlord type categories captured in the Census (see excerpt below) cannot be accurately mapped to the types of housing funded within community housing programs and regulated by the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH). It is unclear, for example:

- which Census landlord category should be reported by tenants in housing provided by local councils and Indigenous councils
- how people would respond to the Census question if they lived in a caravan

park dwelling managed by state/territory government or by a Community Housing Organisation.

This results in inability to produce data describing community housing tenants that is consistent with administrative data held by funding departments and the NRSCH. For example, governments need to separately identify housing provided by government entities, as this housing may be funded under state/territory community housing programs (thus is of particular interest to community housing funding departments) but is not regulated under the NRSCH (and thus should be excluded from comparisons with data sourced from the NRSCH).

In 2016, Landlord type was captured via question 57 of the Census:

The Census:

- captures rich data not well suited to administrative data collection/not included in nationally-agreed data set specifications,
- has the number of respondents required to produce reliable statistics for smaller priority cohorts, and
- enables comparison of housing outcomes across housing tenure and landlord type.

This misalignment of concepts constrains governments' ability to use Census data to:

- understand the profiles and outcomes of households in social housing and compare the housing outcomes across housing tenure and landlord types, and
- manage gaps in the coverage of administrative community housing data collections.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission has advised that, for the 2020 review of GST distribution methodology, it is looking to develop an approach which scales Census data with administrative data held by the AIHW in order to adjust for the Census undercount of households in social housing.

2. Household income

One aspirational, overarching national outcome of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement is 'affordable housing options for people on low to moderate incomes'.

Currently, household income is derived by the ABS from reported categorical personal income data (see excerpt below). This level of precision does not support analysis of housing affordability such as the proportion of income spent on (or remaining after) housing costs. This is problematic as the Census is the only independent, national data source that provides whole of population data that could be used to monitor housing affordability across small geographic areas e.g. local government areas. Low-level geographic analysis of housing

affordability is desired by governments as housing affordability varies by location.

In 2016, household income was captured via question 33 of the Census:

There are alternative methods that could potentially improve the reliability of the household income data (see response to Assessment criteria 3).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

See response to Assessment criteria 1.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We are proposing improvements in the data that is already being

collected/generated by the ABS.

Landlord type

Improvements to the alignment of concepts between the Census and social housing administrative data could potentially be achieved through initiatives such as:

1. Using administrative data to create new administrative social housing flags. Dwelling address data are held by the state/territory housing authorities that deliver/fund social housing as well as community housing regulators. This initiative would produce reliable data as it does not rely on self-reported data. The AIHW could support the ABS to work through privacy-related issues to facilitate state/territory provision of address data to the ABS, as we have successfully managed these issues to deliver the National Social Housing Survey.

2. If the first initiative above is not achievable, we recommend:

a. The response options for landlord type are improved to separately identify tenants in public housing, state-owned and managed Indigenous housing, community housing and Indigenous community housing, and avoid response errors resulting from respondent misunderstanding of how to classify their landlord.

b. Providing more examples of how different landlord types should be coded e.g. housing provided by local councils or land councils.

c. Moving the dwelling-related section to earlier in the Census form. This initiative may help to manage errors associated with respondent fatigue.

There are a number of advantages of implementing the first initiative described above. For example:

- Any administrative flag for social housing dwellings developed for the Census could potentially be rolled out in other ABS surveys to improve the identification of households in social housing. Data from a range of ABS surveys contribute to government monitoring and reporting for the housing system e.g. the Survey of Income and Housing, the General Social Survey, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey. These surveys, in particular, would benefit from improved identification of households in social housing.

- Supplementary flags could be developed to identify dwellings that have been transferred from the public housing system to the community housing system and the date in which this occurred. This would facilitate reporting of housing outcomes following transfers of housing stock/tenancy management.

While the introduction of administrative social housing flags would improve the reliability of social housing data captured via the Census, there are some data quality issues to consider. Counts of households in social housing would never exactly match across the Census and administrative data sets e.g. due to

incomplete Census coverage of households in Australia. Also, currently, state/territory housing authorities do not have complete and valid addresses for all funded social housing dwellings (especially community housing and remote Indigenous housing).

Household income

Currently, household income is derived by the ABS from reported categorical personal income data (Census question 33). This level of precision does not support analysis of housing affordability such as the proportion of income spent on (or remaining after) housing costs. There are alternative methods that could potentially improve the reliability of the household income data. For example, the ABS could potentially use an alternative method, the ABS Personal Income Tax dataset (PIT), to inform small area household estimates, or add an additional question, asking respondents to self-report their household income (such as collected via the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey).

There are some considerations associated with the use of PIT data. In particular:

- Data are provided by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) before the processing of all income tax returns for any given year may have been completed. Data provided to the ABS by the ATO are from returns processed up to 31 October, 16 months after the end of the financial year. It is estimated that approximately 3% of taxpayers lodge their income tax returns in the twelve months after the initial processing cut off each year and approximately 5% of taxpayers lodge their income tax returns in the three years following the processing cut off. This means that data provided to the ABS slightly under-estimates the 'final' number of income earners and the total income earned.
- The different reporting period to other Census data.
- There would be some missing records for people who are not required to lodge tax forms e.g. people receiving pensions, with low incomes, or receiving tax-exempt superannuation income.
- Definition work would need to be undertaken to assign individuals to Census households.
- Linkage would not be possible based on dwelling address for accountant lodgements or tax records containing a PO Box rather than a place of residence.
- Some households may be under-represented due to poor linkage rates e.g. residents of the Northern Territory, persons aged between 20 and 29 years of age, and persons of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

We are proposing improvements to data already captured in the Census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

We are proposing a number of options for improving data already captured in the Census. These initiatives are outlined in the response to Assessment criteria 3. Costs will reflect the initiative(s) chosen for implementation.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement is ongoing. As a result, there is a need for time series data relating to Landlord type and Household income, and the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

See response to Assessment criteria 1.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Thank you for considering this submission. We would appreciate being involved in any further data development work in this area. The AIHW can support engagement with the (yet to be convened) Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group to discuss data development work.

Landlord type

We would also appreciate receiving any results from cognitive or pilot tests relating to Landlord type. This information will help us to better understand Census outputs.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission has advised that it supports this proposal.

We understand that the Department of Social Services has also raised the issue of identification of households in social housing in their housing submission.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 374239280

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) supports the inclusion of a new question on long-term health conditions in the 2021 Census and provides the following comments for consideration.

The term 'long-term health conditions' is used throughout this submission, however, there are many synonymous terms such as chronic conditions or non-communicable diseases. Currently defined in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) National Health Survey (NHS), a long-term health condition is a condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, 6 months or longer.

Long-term health conditions are the leading cause of illness, disability and death in Australia; however, for many long-term health conditions there is no accurate measure of the prevalence of these conditions in the Australian population using existing data sources. In addition, the current data sources are unable to measure the prevalence of many conditions at lower levels of geography such as SA2, SA3, SA4 or Primary Health Network (PHN) and for specific priority population groups, both of which can impact resource allocation, health planning and decision making.

The AIHW acknowledges that work is required to determine the most

appropriate and effective way to ask a question on long-term health conditions in the current Census format in order to obtain accurate results. The AIHW would welcome the opportunity to work with the ABS to provide advice on specific details of the question and information items collected.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Health

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Information on the prevalence of long-term health conditions is of national importance. Long-term health conditions are the leading cause of ill health, disability and death in Australia and they place a significant burden on the health sector. Examples of long-term health conditions include arthritis, diabetes, asthma, chronic kidney disease, mental health conditions and dementia.

Long-term health conditions have become increasingly prevalent, in part due to the ageing Australian population and social and lifestyle changes. Disease burden from long-term health conditions is significant for the Australian population (accounting for around two-thirds of total burden) (AIHW 2016) and their management is a major challenge within the health system globally (Beaglehole et al. 2011). The importance of this burden is reflected in the development of the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions and various current national and state-based strategies, policies and programs. The inclusion of a question on long-term health conditions in the Census would enable the prevalence of some long-term health conditions to be calculated and would provide important information that cannot be ascertained from current national health data collections. The information obtained from this question would contribute to health policy development, health program management and could be used for decisions on resource allocation.

References:

AIHW 2016. Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2011—summary report. Australian Burden of Disease Study series no. 4. BOD 5. Canberra: AIHW.

Beaglehole R, Bonita R, Horton R, Adams C, Alleyne G, Asaria P et al. Priority actions for the non-communicable disease crisis. *The Lancet* 377:1438-47.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

An accurate measure of the prevalence of some long-term health conditions in the Australian population is not available, for example, for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and dementia. The prevalence of specific individual diseases at a national level is often low and existing survey-based data sources, such as the ABS National Health Survey, are unable to provide estimates of the prevalence of these rarer conditions. In addition, population groups including Indigenous Australians, people residing in very remote locations and institutionalised individuals are often excluded from or underrepresented in these surveys. The results, therefore, often have high margins of error and there is little confidence in the accuracy and representativeness of the estimates.

Work undertaken by AIHW and others also show that the prevalence of long-term health conditions vary markedly by geography. Health planning is now largely undertaken at the small area level (for example by Primary Health Networks) and data on health need by this level of disaggregation or lower is required. Currently, the prevalence of many long-term health conditions can only be reported at the national or state and territory level. This potentially masks differences that could exist across the country given the diverse nature of Australia in terms of remoteness and socioeconomic position, both of which have been shown to strongly influence the health need of population groups. The ability to combine the information collected from a question on long-term health conditions with the other characteristics collected in the Census (such as education, Indigenous status and country of origin) would enhance the information and enable analysis that would strongly assist policy development and planning purposes. For example, for some long-term health conditions, including dementia and other neurological conditions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, some cardiovascular diseases (in particular atrial fibrillation and flutter) and Type 1 diabetes, the prevalence in the Australian Indigenous population is unknown. Including a health condition question on the Census would help to fill this important information gap. Collecting information on health conditions in the Census may also help improve the accuracy of modelled small area estimates for other collections such as ABS population surveys.

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic needs thorough consideration and testing to ensure the question is asked in a way that is easily understood by the respondent and that the current Census format (i.e. a self-reported, or reported on behalf of other household members, household survey) would support collection of the information obtained. There are questions about the validity of self-reported data for some diseases, and this needs to be examined further. Further analysis of measured and self-reported data from the 2011–13 Australian Health Survey could be useful for this, along with a review of literature on the validity of self-reported data for particular conditions.

A specific example of long-term health conditions that are not recommended for inclusion are mental health conditions. Including a mental health question is not considered to be particularly useful as the results would be difficult to interpret i.e. depending on household composition, a third person would be completing information on the rest of the members of the household. There has been previous work done that identified a disconnect between ABS self-report surveys which ask questions about mental health and the gold standard prevalence measures (The Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing [NSMHWB]) which use a diagnostic questionnaire like the World Health Organization World Mental Health Composite International Diagnostic Interview (WHO WMH-CIDI). Self-reported measures have been observed to produce widely different mental health prevalence rates depending on the survey sample and question item stem.

With that said, there are examples of other health surveys that have used a paper-based survey that the respondent filled out themselves (for example, the AIHW's Coordination of health care study) and the ABS have significant expertise in this area to ensure a robust question is included and robust data items are obtained. Work on question design would not need to occur from scratch and there are many examples that could be drawn upon. In fact, it would be important to align the question and responses with other existing health surveys so that information could be compared and used to validate the information collected in the smaller, more targeted, health surveys.

If necessary, AIHW would be willing to provide advice to the ABS in the design of the question to help ensure its accuracy and usefulness.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic of long-term health conditions is collected in other formats and has not been shown to be considered intrusive or offensive to respondents. It will be important to consider the type of long-term health conditions included in the question as some may be considered more intrusive than others (for example, mental health conditions and some disabilities) and may not be appropriate to ask on behalf of other members in a household because they may not be aware of each other's health conditions. This issue is both in terms of maintaining the right to privacy of individuals as well as the ability of one member of the household to accurately report information on behalf of all members. The Census already allows for respondents to request separate forms/IDs for privacy, so there may already be solutions in place to mitigate this issue.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A question on long-term health conditions needs to be simple and the prior work undertaken to design a question for other surveys could be utilised. Some level of instruction and explanation of terms would be required but these should not need to be lengthy as terminology should be understood particularly by people with the condition. If necessary, the number of response categories could be restricted to only those long-term health conditions deemed the highest priority for which the Census collection methodology is considered suitable.

Any proposed long-term health conditions in the Census would be codified using classifications based on the International Classification of Diseases: 10th Revision (ICD-10). Where possible, data on long-term health conditions should

be collected to be comparable to the National Health Survey (NHS). The code list used for the 2014–15 NHS was initially compiled for use in the 2001 NHS by the Family Medicine Research Centre, University of Sydney, in association with the ABS. This was also used for the 2004–05, 2007–08 and 2011–12 NHS. Conditions classified at the full level of detail are not generally available for output from the survey; however, they can be regrouped in various ways for output.

As an example, the question format might be worded as:

Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have or have had?

Yes, Arthritis

Yes, Osteoporosis

Yes, Asthma

Yes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease/Emphysema

Yes, Cancer

Yes, Diabetes (apart from during pregnancy)

Yes, Heart attack or angina

Yes, Stroke

Yes, Chronic kidney disease

Yes, Mental health condition, including depression or anxiety

Yes, Dementia

Yes, Long-term injury

Yes, Other long-term condition

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The need for information on the prevalence of long-term health conditions is likely to continue to increase as the population ages. The need to understand the prevalence of long-term health conditions at small geographic levels and be able to plan interventions is not likely to diminish in the near future.

Information collected at 5-yearly intervals will provide important time-series information allowing positive or negative changes to be measured and the effect of population-based interventions to be assessed. The information

collected via the Census will also underpin and support information from other sources.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There has been significant national investment in the collection of health-related information for the purposes of research, policy development and resource planning. Data sources including surveys, jurisdictional and national disease registers and administrative data collections provide crucial insights and information about the health status of individuals and the services they receive. However, the need for more information and increased investment in health information infrastructure remains high.

Soon, Australia will have (for the first time) nation-wide integrated health information from a number of administrative data sources including hospital admitted patient care services, emergency department and outpatient services, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Medicare Benefits Schedule which will allow for powerful investigation of the 'serviced' or 'treated' population.

However, the question of health need (health status of individuals who are receiving treatment and those who are not) will remain unanswered unless included in national collections.

Given that there are existing survey-based data sources collecting information about some long-term health conditions, the range of conditions to be included in the question needs to be carefully considered and perhaps restricted to those where significant information gaps exist and/or conditions that can be reliably collected via the Census.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 265320012

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

PTW - Power Two Wheeler (Motorcycles) need to be included in options for travel to work in single or multi mode.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

As the option for PTW (power two wheeler - motorcycles) is currently missing from the census for travel to work single or multi mode - anyone/body using this data in support of transport development/planning or research will not get a true idea of the modes of transport used and as PTW use is on the increase year on year it is vital that it be included in the census to allow developers/planners/researchers to better understand how people are getting to/from work and for PTW to be included in their decisions.

The PTW community are often ignored in transport planning/development because of its omission in this census and others and needs to be addressed in order to make our roads/cities/rural areas safer for PTW users - as we have a disproportionate incident rate - if PTW use is to be encouraged for congestion/environmental reasons it need to be included nationally in any transport planning decisions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

PTW use is on the increase year on year, but but we are also facing a disproportionate rise in PTW accidents, just because PTW use is relatively small (5%) we seem to get overlooked. More data on PTW available to transport planners/developers will lead to better decisions and safer roads - not just for PTW's but for all motorists.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

PTW use will continue to grow and if not included in the census will lead to poorer decisions being made that will affect this small community of people greatly.

With an expanding population and the increase in pressure on our roads, PTW usage data will be vital in future planning and development strategy's for congestion/pollution and road safety decisions.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

As a PTW user i find it hard to believe that in a national census we are overlooked as a minority form of transportation, leading i believe to poor

transport planning/development decisions being made that adversely affect PTW users. There is no doubt in my mind that this leads to more accidents/incidents on our roads and is off-putting to new users.

At a time when our roads are getting more congested and our air quality is deteriorating from vehicle emissions, the use of PTW's should be encouraged and PTW use needs to be included in data to help facilitate a more accurate picture and to help future transport planning/development decisions.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 378536952

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Plain Reason

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Essential changes to the actual question on “Religious Affiliation”, based on empirical evidence and the need for pragmatism and accuracy in a changing political climate -- and with particular relevance to the deepening relationship between religion and politics, as it increasingly impacts contemporary social policy.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Framing of the Religious Affiliation question significantly impacts on national ABS data which, in turn, directly influences the parliamentary and legislative process on key social issues.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on Religious Affiliation is essential, across the entire 'adult' population, and it is wholly relevant to all contemporary socio-political issues. In fact, there is no justifiable reason why this question is "optional". In order to establish comprehensive data on this important topic it is necessary for all citizens to respond with honesty.

However, the question should relate only to adults over the age of 16 years. Parents ascribing a particular Religious Affiliation to their children is a denial of the "Rights of the Child". Children should not be compelled to believe in a particular religion -- it must be a decision for each individual, once they reach intellectual maturity.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Religious Affiliation is a standard topic in each census (Question 19), but the issue here is to simply change the wording so that it more accurately reflects the 'practices' and beliefs of each respondent.

A more 'specific' question will be easily understood by citizens, and reflect their 'true' affiliation with a 'recognised religion'. This is vital for statistical accuracy, rather than regarding the ABS question as referring only to their "family religion" -- which they may no longer practice.

The question must relate to a specific religion which they actual 'believe' and engage with in some meaningful way.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The slightly amended wording of the religious question is unlikely to cause offense, on a topic that has been asked in every census for decades.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

None of the above.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The topic has been relevant since Federation, and will continue to be so.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The census is the only reliable, valid, and truly national means of acquiring this essential data.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

(1) Two options for re-wording the question, to more accurately determine "Religion Affiliation":

Option 1. "Does the person practice*, a specific religion?"

* Practice: to mean more than attending only weddings and funerals.

Option 2. "Does the person practice, a particular religion?" YES or NO

* If NO, go to the next question.

* If YES, go to the list of religions below.

(2) WHY the wording of question on Religious Affiliation needs to change:

(a) Question 19 of the 2016 census reads: 'What is the person's religion?'. There are inherent objections to this question.

(b) It is a “closed” and leading question that assumes the person HAS a religion. It discriminates against an estimated majority of the population who are agnostic, skeptic, atheist, or who have never PRACTICED the religion they were taught as a child. This latter category forms a large proportion of the population.

(c) Historically, and faced with this question, the tendency has been to 'comply with the ABS prompt' by:

(i) nominating a 'religion' the respondent was taught, but has never practiced

(ii) referring to their 'baptismal religion'

(iii) concocting an entry in 'Other - please specify' that they feel might comply with the 'closed' question.

(d) Anecdotal evidence indicates that Australia is increasing secular, but many people still feel compelled to accede to the ABS request for a 'religion' when they may have 'lapsed' long ago.

(e) Humanism is not a religion, it is popularly identified as a philosophy which rejects religious concepts such as 'revealed knowledge'.

(f) SBNR – Spiritual But Not Religious – is another category that distorts the question of “Religious Affiliation”. It is not a religion. The definition of “spiritual” is vague and imprecise – any given emotion can be construed as “spiritual”. SBNR is not a relevant inclusion in the list of “religions” for this important census question.

(g) 'No religion' needs to remain as the first option, for clarity, and to remain consistent with most other western countries that require accurate data on religious affiliation.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 976286924

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

This is a consolidated submission from three Australian Government agencies (the Department of Jobs and Small Business (DJSB), Comcare, and the Fair Work Commission or FWC) in the Jobs and Innovation Portfolio.

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

This is a consolidated submission from three Australian Government agencies (the Department of Jobs and Small Business (DJSB), Comcare, and the Fair Work Commission or FWC) in the Jobs and Innovation Portfolio.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

There are three main areas where we have suggested improvements in the Census under the the 'income and work' topic, as follows.

Separating wage income from total income

In this Submission, we recommend that a question be added to the 2021 Census form to distinguish wage (including salary and supplement) income from non-wage income. This would make Census information much more useful to economists and labour market researchers, particularly those analysing wage developments at the unit-record, local or regional levels.

The current collection of individual income is relatively broad. These data are likely to provide more benefit if it included a breakdown of components, such as wages and salaries, and allowed respondents to provide a specific dollar amount rather than ranges, which would allow for additional analysis such as the calculation of averages.

Work participation

Summary

Through this submission, we seek to include the collection of data that relates to work participation. This information is intended to inform better targeted policy and program design to support work participation, particularly for those with a physical or mental health condition or illness.

This information will provide valuable evidence for private and not-for-profit organisations, and government portfolios, such as employment, social services and health, to address these issues.

Proposed inclusion in Census

At a high level, we seek to identify the cohorts and characteristics of those with a temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition or illness, and to measure the extent to which this affects their ability to work.

As such, we suggest the following be incorporated into the Census:

- whether an individual has experienced a temporary or permanent physical or mental health condition or illness – if so, what type of condition or illness, and
- whether this condition or illness has affected the individual's ability to work, and if so:
 - o the type of impact, and/or
 - o the type of income support being received.

We acknowledge that there are a number of work and health-related questions within the 2016 Census that could be modified to capture this information. However, a working example of how this information could be collected based on the structure of the 2016 Census would be the inclusion of three new questions and adjustments to two existing questions. These new questions and adjustments are noted below in red.

X1 In the last year, has the person had any of the following:
(include definitions) o Short-term health condition (lasting less than six months)
o Long-term health condition (lasting six months or more)
o Disability (lasting six or more)
o No health conditions Go to XX

X2 Does your health condition result in any of the following: o Permanent restriction from work
o Short term restriction from work
o Limited work (e.g. shorter hours)
o No impact with appropriate supports (e.g. flexible arrangements)
o No impact
o Other

Question 23 (2016 Census) to be adjusted to read:

23 What were the reasons for the need for assistance or supervision shown in Questions 20, 21 and 22? o No need for help or supervision
o Health condition or disability (shown in Question X1)
o Old or young age
o Difficulty with English language
o Other cause

Question 34 (2016 Census) to be adjusted to read:

34 Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?
(need to include definition of paid leave or income support) o Yes, worked for payment or profit
o Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down
o Yes, but was on paid leave or income support Go to X3
o Yes, unpaid work in a family business Go to 38
o Yes, other unpaid work Go to 46
o No, did not have a job, but was on paid leave or income support Go to X3
o No, did not have a job Go to 46

Note: the following question should sit above Question 46 (from 2016 Census)

X3 Which of the following best describes the paid leave or income support you

were on last week

(definitions may need to be included) o Employer provided entitlement (e.g. sick leave)

o Social security payment

o Workers' compensation payment

o Life insurance payment

o Superannuation payment

o Motor vehicle accident compensation payment

o Other

Evidence of work participation

There is significant and compelling evidence to support, and general agreement about, the importance of work participation, including the Australian and New Zealand Consensus Statement on the Health Benefits of Work released by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine first released in 2011. This consensus statement presents compelling international and Australasian evidence that work is generally good for health and wellbeing, and that long-term work absence, work disability and unemployment generally have a negative impact on health and wellbeing.

As such, it is important to understand the reasons for, and characteristics of, individuals who are unable to participate in the workforce.

Value of work participation

In 2018, the Collaborative Partnership (see the "Any further comments" Section at the end of this submission for an explanation of this Partnership) commissioned research by Monash University that identified that a total of \$37.2 billion was spent on income support in one financial year (2015-16), through a complex mix of government systems, private sector insurers and employers:

- Employer provided entitlements, e.g. sick leave (6.5 million recipients, \$18.7 billion expenditure)
- Social security (469,000 recipients, \$8.6 billion expenditure)
- Workers' compensation (156,000, \$2.5 billion expenditure)
- Life insurance (95,000 recipients, \$4.4 billion expenditure)
- Motor vehicle accident (6,000 recipients).

This information would provide important evidence to authorities and agencies that are responsible for supporting work participation, health, employment,

social services and welfare, workers' compensation, life insurance and superannuation. In addition to influencing government and policy, this information will also enable employers and industry to address barriers and issues within the workplace to support work participation that can be targeted accordingly.

Understanding the barriers to work participation, particularly regarding health conditions that impact on an individual's ability to work is an important priority for the Australian government and community at large. Addressing ways to support Australians to participate in work is important particularly in the context of other trends such as the economic impacts of an ageing population, the future of work (expected changes to job design and availability), and increasing prevalence of mental illness (for example, 1 in 5 Australians will experience in their lifetime a diagnosable mental health condition).

Method of setting pay

The information that we seek is required for research and to assist with monitoring outcomes related to wage setting and other workplace relations arrangements.

The primary benefit of the Census is the ability to obtain information at a fine level of detail. In particular, agencies in the Jobs and Innovation portfolio require information at the most detailed level of industry and occupation. This information can be used as a proxy for modern award coverage and is cross-classified by gender, age, hours worked, labour force status and educational attainment.

A question on method of setting pay (modern award, collective agreement, individual arrangement) would assist in better understanding a wide range of characteristics on employees that receive an award rate of pay, compared with other employees. This would specifically assist with the Fair Work Commission's Annual Wage Review and four- yearly review of modern awards.

Additional data items that would be of interest include:

- Number of jobs held; and
- Whether the respondent worked in the last year, to obtain some measure of long-term unemployment.

We also recognise that there would be benefits in linking the Census to other household surveys, such as the Labour Force Survey, and to continue to promote the longitudinal dataset format by increasing the sample size.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Separating wage income from total income

Currently the ABS Census specifically ask each respondent 'What is the total of all income the person usually receives?' The ABS defines Total Income as

‘Total (or gross) income, is the sum of income from all sources, whether monetary or in kind, before income tax, the Medicare Levy and the Medicare Levy surcharge are deducted.’

As such, the information collected includes all sources of income such as wages, government allowances and pensions, investment income and non-cash receipts such as goods and services, use of a vehicle or subsidised housing. The separation of these sources of income into wage (wages and government supplements) and non-wage income (investment, non-cash) would provide a clearer picture of the distribution of wage earnings across the nation.

The data collected on wage and non-wage income would be incredibly useful to economists and labour market analysts to understand better the changes in and distribution of wages over time both at an aggregate and regional level. It would also provide an opportunity for further research on those who receive income at or around the national minimum wage (NMW), which would inform policy decisions about setting this minimum wage.

Separate information on wage and total income would help to inform labour market research on this topic and help shape future policy development, better target Government funding, program planning and education and training, through identifying areas of wage disparity and identifying those at risk of poorer socio-economic outcomes and reliance on Government subsidies.

Work participation

As noted in the submission summary above, work participation and barriers to participation are priorities for the Australian government and broader community due to the financial and social impacts of poor participation and poor health/social outcomes. Understanding and targeting of issues in these areas has impacts on the requirements noted above (i.e. for electoral, legislative, policy, program and research purposes).

Method of setting pay

The collection of data on method of setting pay (award rate of pay, collective agreement, individual arrangement) would assist with the Fair Work Commission’s Annual Wage Review and 4 yearly review of modern awards. The Expert Panel for annual wage reviews is required to conduct each annual wage review within the legislative framework of the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth). Acquiring these statistics based on a population would help provide a better understanding on the proportion of employees that are affected by the Commission’s decisions and to expand the amount and type of research that

could be undertaken to assist the Panel's deliberations. In particular, the data would provide a better understanding of the groups of employees that are more likely to receive award rates of pay. The collection of this information would also assist analysts to conduct more detailed analysis of the effects of methods of setting pay on wages, incomes, labour productivity and other outcomes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Separating wage income from total income

Currently ABS statistics on wages are only disaggregated down to the state and territory level, for example, median weekly and median hourly earnings in main job from the ABS release, Characteristics of Employment (Cat. No.6333.0); or at best, the SA4 level.

Data at the national level which can be disaggregated down to regional levels, will help to identify areas of disadvantage including wage income of those with low levels of total income, education, employment, remote areas, Indigenous Australians and those aged over sixty five years.

In addition, information on employees earning at or around the National Minimum Wage rate is limited. If the collection of individual income included a breakdown of components and allowed respondents to provide specific dollar amounts, this would allow a much more comprehensive analysis of these types of workers to be undertaken. Particularly as the number of workers earning the National Minimum Wage rate is likely to be small, this collection would benefit from a larger survey sample to enable some analysis at a disaggregated level.

Work participation

Additional information on work participation from the 2021 Census would enable analysts and policy developers to leverage other data items collected in the Census (e.g. geography, age, area of employment/skill) to enable targeted policy and program consideration.

Method of setting pay

A data item on 'method of setting pay' would be useful in estimating the proportion of groups of employees reliant on award rates of pay based on the whole population. This data could be combined with information on household composition and income.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Separating wage income from total income

Census Respondents are already asked to provide information on their total income. Our proposal is simply to add another question on wage and salary income. This would then enable non-wage income to be calculated by subtracting wage and salary income from total income.

Total income information already collected in the census is easily obtained from many written or online sources such as employer group certificates and other investment activity that is collected for taxation purposes.

A possible version of the question which could be added is "What is the total of wage and salary income the person usually receives?" There would also be a need to include a small amount of explanatory description of the definition of wage and salary income, such as: 'Wage and salary income - Income paid directly to you by your employer or wages you receive from your own or family business or partnership'. However, expert survey question designers in the ABS may be able to suggest a more appropriate wording of this question and explanatory description.

Work participation

The suggested changes in this submission (see introductory Section) have been considered using simple language that would be easy and quick to consider and answer. However, the ABS might be able to suggest other ways

that could represent an improvement.

Method of setting pay

The ABS (or alternative surveys) already applies methods in which these data are collected and can be understood by respondents through the Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Separating wage income from total income

The question is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial and should be relatively straightforward for respondents to answer, as it simply disaggregates the income information question already included in the Census.

Work participation

The questions and responses noted in this submission seeking details regarding limitations and income sources are of similar vein to those that were in the 2016 Census, and are unlikely to be unacceptable to respondents.

Method of setting pay

These topics are no more intrusive than that is currently collected in the Census and respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Separating wage income from total income

With the additional question, the ABS will ask the respondents to separate their total income and provide a total for wage and salary income, which will be accompanied with a brief definition explaining the criteria for defining this amount (suggested amendments were provided against assessment criteria 3). This will require an additional code to distinguish between the two different income types, as such; this addition will not require extensive processing. As the total income question is already asked during the current Census the data collection required in a subset question to separate total income from wage and salary income would be minimal.

Work participation

Though the submission includes potentially one or two new question/answer fields, it is unlikely that this information would be difficult to code, or require significant instruction or explanation.

Method of setting pay

There may be some difficulty in accurately collecting this data. Employees are less likely to know their method of setting pay than their employers who have access to payroll records. However, research on methods of setting pay using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey has shown that the difference in coverage of employees reliant on awards is not too different to that collected by the ABS from employers. However, both of these two existing resources are limited by either their sample size or the amount of variables that can also be analysed.

The ABS already has instructions on how to answer questions on methods of setting pay (from its Employee Earnings and Hours survey) that can be applied to the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Separating wage income from total income

Time series data that distinguishes wage (including salary) income from total income at the local and regional level would be necessary to see the changes over time to wages at the local level and for disadvantaged groups in the population such as Indigenous Australians. This would be used for analytical purposes such as assessing wage inequality for disadvantaged groups and wage and salary differences among regions of Australia. In turn, this could be used to improve policy development and evaluation, including of wage-setting arrangements, place-based policies to get unemployed people into work and educational and training policies and programs.

Work participation

It is likely that this information will be required in future Censuses as there will be an ongoing need to capture work participation trends and information relating to barriers. The topic of work participation has been, and will continue, being a significant policy issue for the Australian population, particularly in the context of an ageing population, rise in mental health issues, and future of work design.

Method of setting pay

The topics discussed will continue to remain relevant for future annual wage reviews. A longitudinal dataset would better enable these issues to be analysed over time to assess developments in wage-setting and incomes.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Separating wage income from total income

The Household Income and Labour Dynamics survey (HILDA) collects information on weekly earnings (typically gross) which can then be disaggregated into hourly earnings using information collected on the usual weekly hours of work of all those employed in the household, resulting in

‘current usual earnings per hour worked’. HILDA is also broken down into major urban (population 100,000+), non-major urban (population between 1,000 and 99,999) and non-urban regions (populations less than 1,000 and regional and remote areas). However, the sample size is relatively small with only around 17,000 households participating in the survey, which can produce high sampling errors. Partly due to its relatively small sample size, HILDA can tend to under-represent certain groups such as Indigenous Australians, with its limited reach into regional areas, and recent migrants, which become less recent as they continue through the survey and may not necessarily be replaced in the next wave. Unlike the Census, HILDA survey participants can have high rates of dropping out where they are then replaced by a household with similar (but not the same) attributes. This could provide inconsistencies in future responses compared with the responses from the previous household making a consistent time series difficult.

As mentioned previously, the ABS’s own Characteristics of Employment survey does collect information on wages before tax, however the data is not disaggregated beyond the State and Territory level, or SA4 using microdata, and cannot be cross-tabulated with at-risk groups unlike Census data.

Work participation

The Census presents the only opportunity for an Australia-wide snapshot of work participation trends and issues. Though smaller studies can be, and have been, undertaken, there are limited opportunities to capture this information and data from a national perspective.

Method of setting pay

While most of this data is collected in other ABS surveys, the amount of analysis that can be undertaken is limited by the sample sizes of these surveys and there continues to remain scope for further research that could be considered if these topics are added to the Census and expanding the types of disaggregation.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The Collaborative Partnership is a national effort by public, private and not-for-profit organisations to improve work participation for people with temporary or permanent physical or mental health conditions which may impact their ability to work. The Collaborative Partnership is focused on aligning systems and services in workers' compensation, life insurance, superannuation, disability support and employment services.

Comcare is currently the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership which includes:

- Department of Jobs and Small Business
- Department of Social Services
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Employers Mutual Limited (EML)
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- Australian Council of Trade Unions.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 130899006

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

A need to enable Australians to identify themselves as other than male or female and to do so in a way that does not marginalise this choice
Respect for people's right to identify themselves as other than male/female is increasingly recognised, including by Council, which seeks to ensure that where information is collected, people are offered the option to self-identify. We note that in the 2016 Census, people were able to request an alternative form where a response other than male or female could be added. However, the results of the Census show that only a small number of people did so. It may be that few people wished to, but the small number may also be related to the additional barrier posed by the extra step involved.

Council suggests that 'Prefer to self-identify' with space to specify should be added to the answer options for the Census question on sex/gender (noting that this question currently does not distinguish between sex and gender). The regular Census form should carry this option without a person having to request a special format.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Obtaining data on sex is fundamental to the purpose of the Census, underpinning population projections, estimations of life expectancy and family structure.

Council considers that capturing information on gender identification is similarly important, both for understanding the diversity of the community (for the purposes of health planning) and for enabling those persons who wish to do so, to self-identify, thus recognising this as both accepted and legitimate. While many people do not have any difficulty in making a binary selection (male/female), some do, and the Census form should accommodate this feature of the community.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Council considers that there is a need for whole of population data for similar reasons that sex data is collected from all individuals.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Council considers that accurate data collection is achievable. Sex and gender are two different things, but Council considers that adding a separate question on gender identification could cause confusion. It would be more effective to add an answer option to the existing sex question with the capacity for a person to specify.

While this option would not result in data that distinguishes between sex and gender, this is the case with the current question which is intended to capture information on biological sex but does not carry an explanation and can be answered by a person as referring to gender.

Responses to an amended sex question could be assisted by an explanatory note that provides examples of how a person may identify if they choose to select a third option.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Council notes that concerns for acceptability prevented a third option being added to the general Census form in 2016. However, we are of the view that the social context continues to change and stigmas continue to be challenged. We consider that allowing people who don't readily see themselves as male or female to identify how they wish to in the general Census form would be an important step in furthering the breakdown of stigma and the acceptance of diversity.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Council considers that there would be minimal difficulty in efficient coding of the data that would arise from adding a third option. At a minimum, all 'other' type responses could be collated to provide an indication of the proportion of the population who do not (or prefer not to) identify in a binary way.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is a continual need for information on the sex of the population. Council considers that adding a third option to the general form would not change this need but would instead enhance the data.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no other data sources that provide local area information on gender diversity, and none enable the same level of multivariate analysis that would allow comparison with education, employment and other variables.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 847699621

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

A need to expand current questions on relationships to capture more of the diversity of family structures

A need to more clearly establish the nature of a person's presence within a households.

The collection of family structure information through the Census is largely centred on establishing the relationships of residents with a single householder. While the answer options for a second person enable identification of an 'other' relationship to person 1, the answer options for all other persons in the household all (with the exception of child) are asked with reference to person 1. This doesn't capture the range of relationships in households with two - or three

householders (i.e. blended households/families).

Council considers that where possible, it is important for the range of family relationships within families to be identifiable through the Census.

At a minimum, additional answer options should be added to the Census' relationship options for person 2 and for all other persons, answer options should enable identification of relationship to either person 1 or person 2.

Council considers that there is a case for adding an additional question (similarly to that asked in the United Kingdom national Census) which asks for the status of a person in the household, with answer options that include; person temporarily present on holiday, person temporarily present for work, person present as a permanent usual resident, person present as a resident of a second home (with examples provided), person present as a guest/visitor, person present due to lack of a permanent place to stay

The current question on where a person usually lives would need an additional answer option to enable a person to identify themselves as living in the same address as Q1 plus another address.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The capture of household and family diversity via the Census is of significant and demonstrated national importance, telling us about our society and assisting the work of service deliverers and researchers looking at trends over time and between jurisdictions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

For Council, local information on family and household type provides us with the capacity to track trends within the municipality for planning purposes, and underpins our provision of services to families. It would make a difference to

Council's service provision to know, for example, how many children within the municipality live in shared custody arrangements. It would also make a difference for Council to know how many households are home to people temporarily resident on holiday (a marker of the transience of the population)

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Council does not foresee any concerns arising from self-completion of more detailed household relationship questions.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Council does not foresee any acceptability concerns.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Collecting more detailed information on household relationships would require a longer survey with more answer options, but would provide valuable information to justify this extension.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Council considers that there is likely to be continuing need for information on this topic and continuing need for the capacity to collect information as the nature of families and households change with time.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are other sources of information available on family structure, including the ABS' Family Characteristics and Transitions survey . This survey however, was last conducted in 2012-13 and does not provide local area information that would be of most use to local authorities. This is the case with information from the HILDA survey and from Australia-wide surveys. Local area data is important because different communities have different family compositions, related to (amongst other variables), cultural and socioeconomic background and the characteristics of place (such as being a holiday location).



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 826328150

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council considers that there is:
A need to amend explanatory information provided on volunteering and add at least one additional question to this topic; and
A need to remove the over 15 years barrier to questions on unpaid care
The current question on volunteering asks Australians if they have spent any time in the last twelve months doing volunteering through an organisation or group. The explanatory notes indicate that 'volunteering' should include volunteer work through sporting teams, youth groups, schools and religious organisations.
Council considers that this explanation rules out activity that should be included

in an understanding of volunteering, including volunteering for community or political campaigns, volunteering to gain work experience and student placements. The question itself provides little useful information, including (but not limited to) because the question collates one-off volunteering with ongoing long-term volunteering.

Council suggests that at a minimum the question be replaced with one that asks if a person has spent time in the last twelve months doing volunteering, with answer options that would allow for information on frequency (i.e. no; yes once or twice; yes regularly every month; yes regularly every fortnight, or similar). The explanation of volunteering provided should be broadened to capture the activities undertaken by people in a voluntary capacity or it should be made clear that the question refers only to formal volunteering. Council would also find useful a follow up question that asked a person for the industry or area they volunteered in.

Council considers that there remains a place for questions in the Census on unpaid child and other care and domestic work. We suggest however, that the three current questions on unpaid care and domestic work should be able to be completed by all Census participants allowing us to gain some indication of children's caregiving which we have little information on.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Information on volunteering activity has national significance, including by complementing our knowledge on pathways to and from employment and as a marker of social cohesion. Volunteering is valuable to and data guides us in promoting it by supporting organisations to develop policies and programs (such as for young people seeking entry to full time work)

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As well as Council considers that volunteering and unpaid care/domestic work will look different in different communities. There are few sources of information that provides this information for small geographic groups.

Including effective questions on volunteering in the Census enables multivariate comparison with data on employment which organisations focused on local areas, including Council can draw on to tailor their programs and support services.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Council considers that an amended question on volunteering (involving slightly different wording and the substitute of a yes/no response with answer options that refer to frequency) would be able to be accurately asked on a self-completed Census form.

Completion of the Census form by adults on behalf of children introduces bias into Census responses. However, this bias is already present in the completion of the Census by a 'householder' on behalf of others. The gender difference in data on unpaid care and domestic work suggests that the bias is not sufficient to completely obscure data

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Council does not foresee any concerns with acceptability.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Council does not foresee any concerns with efficient collection of data

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Council considers that expanded volunteering and unpaid work/care data is likely to continue to be useful in future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

A number of other ABS surveys collect information on volunteering and care/unpaid work. There is a significant time gap between conduct of some of these (Time Use survey for example). Others do not provide local information. While the Census is limited in the detail of information able to be collected, it does provide local area snap shot information that is critical for planning and service delivery.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 830339305

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council considers that there is:

A need to expand question options on current engagement in education to capture information on early childhood education.

Research links engagement in early childhood learning to a range of later life outcomes

The current Census provides an option for 'preschool' to be selected, and council would like to see an additional option for early childhood education, with complementary amendment of the explanatory text for the gateway question (currently 24) on engagement in school/other educational institution.

Council considers that there may be a case for future reconsideration of other

education questions. The current Census collects the name of a person's 'highest' qualification as a means to gauge the overall level of education of the population. However, increasing education can manifest in more not necessarily higher levels of education. While the ABS conducts a qualification and work study, there are few sources of this information currently available for local areas. We suggest that it may be worth exploring the possibility of amending the question on highest level of education to require people to list their completed levels of education.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Early childhood education data has national importance because of its potential role in supporting further education of the population. It would be useful for policy development and for research, potentially enabling exploration of the link between engagement in early childhood learning and future education and employment outcomes.

<https://aifs.gov.au/publications/child-care-and-early-childhood-education-australia>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Early childhood education information would be utilised by Council as a local provider of early childhood services to track engagement and to deliver services around the needs and requirements of the population

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Council does not anticipate any difficulties collecting early childhood education information through the Census

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As education is an accepted Census topic, extending collection to early childhood is anticipated to pose to acceptance concerns.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Council does not anticipate any difficulties in collecting this information

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Council considers that extended collection of information on education in early childhood is an important part of collecting information on education generally, of which there is an ongoing need for data collection.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We are not aware of other alternative data sources



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 399349231

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council considers that there is;
A need to reconsider the current questions asked in the Census on disability
We note that the current Census asks people whether they need someone to help with or be with them for 'core' activities (self-care, body movement, communication) and it asks for reasons for this need for assistance or supervision.

Council's concern is that not all disability is experienced as a need for help or supervision. There are people who do not need help or supervision but who nonetheless experience barriers in engaging with the social and physical environment. As a local infrastructure and service provider with a significant

stake in the development of inclusive, accessible environments, Council considers that the Census does not gather sufficient information to support this work.

Our view is that a question that asks directly about a person's experience of disability is needed.

The current questions on self-care, body movement and communication could be reconstructed to ask a person about their experience with barriers to activity, consistent with the social model of disability.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Council considers disability and caring are topics of significant national importance.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Council considers that exploring disability through the whole of population census is critical for its capacity to provide small population/geographic area information. Council depends on the Census to provide us with the only local specific information we have on the prevalence of disability and care in our community. We utilise the data to meet our commitment to produce a Disability Action Plan and to conduct disability planning work. However the currently available indicator (assistance with core activities) does not provide a complete picture of disability in the community and does not provide us with sufficient information about environmental barriers experienced by people with disability that we would find most useful for planning.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

No undue difficulties are anticipated

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

No acceptability concerns are anticipated

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Council considers that information could be collected efficiently

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

We suggest that information on environmental accessibility and the experience of disability are critical currently and will continue to be critical in the future

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Council draws on information released by the ABS' survey of disability and carers, but completes the survey with the critical local information provided by the Census



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 680321927

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☐ Income and work

☐ Unpaid work and care

☐ Education and training

☐ Disability and carers

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and

recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

please consider adding motorcycles as an option to choose from both for the question on travel to work, and also in the number of vehicles per household

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

please consider adding motorcycles as an option to choose from both for the question on travel to work, and also in the number of vehicles per household

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

please consider adding motorcycles as an option to choose from both for the question on travel to work, and also in the number of vehicles per household

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

please consider adding motorcycles as an option to choose from both for the question on travel to work, and also in the number of vehicles per household

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

motorcycles and other powered two wheel transport is the fastest growing transportation segment in the country, yet is not represented at all in census data. a significant portion of the population use PTW for both commuting and recreational activities and yet data is not collected to help national, state and local governments factor this into their infrastructure and traffic plans

please consider adding motorcycles as an option to choose from both for the question on travel to work, and also in the number of vehicles per household



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 936930621

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council considers that there is;
A need to facilitate a clearer collection of information for a person experiencing homelessness; and
A need to amend the answer options for a person who is renting to clarify landlord information
Redacted text Council greatly values the information on tenure and dwelling type provided by the Census. The information informs our land use planning and city design work, and our community and social services.
The last Census indicated homelessness is increasing in **Redacted text** and Council considers that in 2021, the Census could be clearer on the collection of

information for persons experiencing homelessness of all types (including housing insecurity). Collecting more information can help us and others understand the nature of homelessness and take steps to address it. We consider that an additional question asking for the nature of a person's presence in a household would help provide information on hidden homelessness. But we also consider that it is important to amend the questions on place of usual residence to include a specific option of 'no current household address', including this in the current, one year previous and five years previous questions to enable us to know a person's progression (and the extent of time a person may have been without a household address). The current question on ownership of dwellings being rented includes an answer option that collates three circumstances 'housing co-operative; community or church group'. They are all different and with the growth of community housing in some areas, there is a case for community housing provider/agency to be included as a separate option from church groups. It would also be good to clarify that the Government Housing Authority relates to State Housing Departments as distinct from local councils and there should be another option to capture any other arrangements.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location

- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Housing insecurity is a rising national interest. We consider that understanding more about this issue is critical for service providers, and organisations who have a role in acting in this space, but also for researchers looking at housing trends of Australians.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Different geographic areas have very different housing/dwelling characteristics,

household presence, homelessness and rental arrangements. The Census allows us to capture these differences and to undertake multivariate analysis with measures such as SEIFA.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Council does not anticipate any collection concerns

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Council does not anticipate any acceptability concerns

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Council does not anticipate any concerns

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As noted, housing insecurity is likely to be of interest in future years

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no comparable sources of data that could meet our topic needs

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 928379573

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council considers that there is:
A need to extend mode of travel (journey to) questions to mode of travel to education (study) and mode of travel after hours/other
Council uses the mode of travel information for critical transport planning.
We note that restricting the information gathered to work trips tells us only part of the story of travel/mobility generally.
We know that casualization of work and increasing engagement in education mean that people's travel purposes at any point in time are more mixed now than previously. If the purpose of the journey to work information is to determine which method of travel is predominantly used at the traditionally

busy 'peak hours', Council's argument would be that this reasoning is less valid in a current environment where fewer people engage in the traditional 9 to 5. Our roads and public transport networks are used for different purposes at different times and we would argue that it makes sense to collect information from across the main purposes rather than just one. The information gathered would be more useful, particularly for organisations such as Council which have a role in planning for, and managing, transport infrastructure. Council also considers that for future questions on mode of travel 'walking' should be included as an option for people to select. At the moment 'walking only' is an option. We should allow people to select walking as part of their journey.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Council suggests that mode of travel is of national importance particularly when considering the role that our major cities are adopting, attracting high population growth where pressure for appropriate management of travel routes is high

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As noted, Council highly values the local area travel to work information provided by the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Council does not anticipate collection concerns

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Council does not anticipate acceptability concerns

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Extending journey information to study at a minimum will add additional questions to the Census form. Council considers that the information arising from additional will justify the additional cost.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As noted, commute information is critical for future planning particularly for urban areas – we consider that there is a definite need for continuing data on this topic.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Council sources information from providers such as VicRoads, and is considering the installation of local sensor technology. Neither source provides with the behaviour information we can source from the Census. Other studies do not include local area specific information



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 300171022

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council considers that there is:
A case for ceasing the Census question on household access to the internet
With the growth of coverage in internet access and the fast pace of technological change, Council is of the view that this question is now redundant.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 154425741

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Council has identified a need for information on sexual orientation. As a local government, Council is required to act for the benefit and wellbeing of the community, which includes service delivery as well as advocacy on behalf of community interests. Understanding the characteristics of the community, including aspects of diversity, is essential for this work.

We lack data on the LGBTI population, including the size of the community, and indicators of age, employment and education, such that our service delivery and advocacy activities currently occur in the absence of reliable information. We cannot be certain that our services are meeting the needs of LGBTI persons.

We note that the Census provides some indication of sexual diversity, capturing information on cohabiting same sex couples and (in 2021 following change to the Marriage Act), same sex legally married couples. This does provide some insight for local service providers.

An explicit question on sexual orientation included in the 2021 Census raises questions of acceptability, completion rates and early exit from the survey, but we note that testing in other jurisdictions indicates it may be possible. Council is not advocating for the inclusion of a sexual orientation question on the 2021 Census at this stage, but would like to submit that serious consideration be given to this option.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 626429752

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Community service organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Anglicare Tasmania

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Homelessness Australia
Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT)
Shelter Tasmania
Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS)
Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

To have data collected about children (under 18 years) who are homeless and specifically whether they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

State and Federal governments need more information about the number of children who are homeless and without a parent or guardian so that governments can develop appropriate services – in appropriate locations and for appropriate numbers and ages.

Currently, specialist homelessness services in Tasmania are not adequately resourced to assist children who present to them. With a one-worker model, the services lack capacity to provide care appropriate to age and complexity of need of children. Further, specialist homelessness services are not funded to provide services for children under certain ages, leaving younger unaccompanied homeless children without formal services to shelter or care for them.

In 2015-16, 342 unaccompanied children aged 10 to 17 presented to Tasmanian Specialist Homelessness Services. Two-thirds of these presentations were made by girls (223) and one-third by boys (119). This data only represents those children who presented to specialist services, not all children who experience unaccompanied homelessness.

Across Australia, specialist homelessness services are funded by the Federal Government so therefore issues relating to policy are relevant nationally. In order for better programs to be developed to support unaccompanied homeless children, governments need better understanding of the quantities and complexities they are dealing with.

In 2017, Dr Catherine Robinson of the Social Action and Research Centre of Anglicare Tasmania reviewed the situation for unaccompanied homeless children around Australia. The report, *Who Cares? Supported accommodation for unaccompanied children*

(<https://www.socialactionresearchcentre.org.au/research/who-cares/>) found significant gaps in the provision of services for unaccompanied homeless children. In particular there is a lack of age- and needs- appropriate accommodation for under 16s.

Who Cares? also provided examples of policy, programs, services and practice guidelines that aim to strengthen responses to unaccompanied under 16s who present to Specialist Homeless Services.

Anglicare Tasmania will continue to provide qualitative evidence to the Tasmanian Government but we are unable to capture the numbers of children who cannot be accommodated (temporarily) by specialist homelessness services, who remain couch surfing, who feel compelled to stay in unsafe

homes or who try surviving on the streets. This is an issue of national importance for which data should be collected.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The number of unaccompanied homeless children in each State is likely to represent a small population relative to the whole picture of homelessness. However, the implications for the health and welfare of this population is significant.

Unaccompanied homeless children are likely to be absent from school, either temporarily or permanently, which has serious implications for their education, employment and social development. This issue therefore links to education and employment data.

Unaccompanied homeless children are not likely to receive proper and timely health and medical care due to a lack of adult to advocate for them. This issue therefore also links to health, which, while it is not a specific focus for the Census, is a significant focus for State and Federal governments.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

There is a range of settings in which answers to this question could be provided. Households that are temporarily providing shelter for a person who normally resides elsewhere would provide information as to whether the person staying with them was under 18 years of age and staying without their parent or guardian, which would be easy and quick to understand and answer. The

question of whether the person was homeless or having a sleep-over is also most likely to be easily ascertained, albeit there would be some circumstances where the actual situation is either not known or unclear. The question could allow the household to answer they “do not know” if the child has a usual address, leaving policy makers to interpret accordingly. Census collectors would also seek to answer the question when gathering data from shelters and from people rough sleeping and squatting. Whether the person was under 18 might not always be easily assessed, but again the data collection could include “age unknown”, which, for the purposes of policy would still be relevant. There are, presumably, protocols already existing for ABS collectors relating to the collection of data from homeless population. The importance for State governments, as the ultimate carer of all unaccompanied children, is paramount. Further, unaccompanied homeless children need an avenue for their situation to be known.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This topic should not be intrusive for households completing the question for a child couch-surfing and they should be able to answer accurately. The questions would cover whether the person is usually there, under 18 and without a parent or guardian.

The issue would not be intrusive for the workers at a shelter/refuge and they would be able to answer accurately.

Homelessness services do not usually accept children under 13 years of age and sometimes not until children reach 16 years old so other than couch-surfing, most other homeless children are likely to be rough sleeping or squatting. It may be difficult for Census workers to approach children in these circumstances and accurately ascertain ages and whether a parent or guardian was present with them. However, the collecting of this data is critical for improving public policy on this issue.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This topic would be efficiently collected from households reporting on couch-surfing and shelters.

Collection of data about children rough sleeping and squatting would be collected in a similar fashion as for all homeless people.

An issue of complexity for the ABS to consider is their obligations for mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect, which should already be covered by the protocols in place for ABS data collectors.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Children and young adults aged 0 to 24 are disproportionately represented in the homeless population overall. A finer grain analysis is warranted in order to target intervention in an age-appropriate way specifically for children who are homeless and without an adult carer.

Data on unaccompanied homeless children will be relevant to future Census because it provides information for State and Federal governments to monitor the effectiveness of their services. If a Census indicates the growth of the target population in a region, it would allow local authorities to act appropriately. All State governments would be interested to see whether their interventions have successfully reduced the number of unaccompanied children experiencing

homelessness.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census is likely to be the only source that could gain both State and national figures and trends for this cohort. A subset of the cohort can be collected through specialist homelessness services but this would not include the children who are unaware of these services, who are too young for a particular service or who have given up on the ability of services to assist. The data collected would provide powerful evidence of the prevalence of unaccompanied homeless children, which policy makers can use to justify specific and targeted services.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 138777135

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Early Childhood Data Sub-Group (ECDSG)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The ECDSG suggests that the first question (and response options) in the 'Education and Training' topic from the current Census be amended to capture data on early childhood education and care attendance. This could be achieved by:

a) Modifying the first question in the 'Education and Training' topic from the current 2016 Census to include reference to early childhood education services. This will help to ensure families with children in this age group are aware the question relates to them:

'Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution (including an early childhood service)?'

And potentially including:

b) A drop-down response menu two additional choices: 'early childhood service' and 'playgroup'.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data regarding the number of children attending an early childhood education service, or more informal early childhood such as playgroups are important to assist States and Territories plan to:

- to meet growing family requirements for more and better access to early learning, particularly with the predicted growth in child populations
- to identify and tackle urgent supply and access bottlenecks (as families seek more educational quality and care opportunities) and the associated financial and practical pressures these bottlenecks can create
- to provide more high-quality choices for families and allow them to match the demands of their working lives with their educational expectations for their children.

Data collected on a national level in combination with other characteristics captured in the Census will allow for more targeted, needs-based policy development.

Early childhood education data collected by the Census will also inform government policy development and provide research regarding the impact of early childhood education on population-level outcomes. National and international evidence show that children who participate in early childhood education for two years:

- benefit from increased lifetime earnings from improved cognitive skills
- increased length of school and educational attainment
- reduced incidence of obesity-related illness and
- are less likely to commit crime (Karoly 2016; Heckman 2012).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Early childhood education has been shown to help children achieve a material lift in future social, academic and emotional outcomes. Two years of early childhood education has been shown to improve socio-behavioural development, academic achievement through later schooling as measured by NAPLAN and PISA, an increased likelihood of university attendance, increased lifetime earnings from higher productivity and better health outcomes across the population. These potential links between early childhood education and other characteristics collected in the Census can be more clearly observed

when data across the entire life stages of individuals are available.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Respondents are likely to know whether their child is attending an 'early childhood service' or a 'playgroup'. In an online Census format, the two additional response options could be collected in an easy and quick drop-down menu.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic of early childhood education is not likely to be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is unlikely that the topic will require extensive processing, since it will only involve modification to an existing question and response options in the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Given the prominent nature of early childhood education in the national policy agenda, and government focus on areas with the greatest economic return on investment, early childhood education is very likely to become increasingly important in the future. Time series data on this topic would provide a more complete picture of how the uptake of early childhood education impacts other characteristics of the population over time.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS currently conducts surveys and census on early childhood education through the following:

- Early Childhood Education and Care National Workforce Census every three years
- Preschool Education, Australia Census annually.

However, these do not provide an all-encompassing snapshot of early childhood education attendance across the country in combination with other characteristics collected by the Census.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 519160205

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

The Empty Cradle

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The incidence of permanent involuntary childlessness in Australia.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Date of birth or age
- ☐ Children ever born
- ☐ Other/don't know

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Household and family relationships

☐

Marital status

☐

Persons temporarily absent on Census night

☐

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

SUGGEST ADDING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(EXAMPLE ONLY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION)

For people over 44 years old who do not have children. Is your childlessness a result of:

- your choice
- infertility
- not the right circumstances during your fertile years
- other _____

If circumstances were different, would you have chosen to have children?

- yes
- no

Data on involuntary childlessness is needed to support policy development, planning and program monitoring and data for further research purposes. Whilst we have current data on the number and age of people who are childless, we do not have comprehensive data on whether childlessness is by choice or involuntary (by infertility or circumstance).

The fertility rate in Australia of 1.78 in 2016 (ABS 2017) at below replacement levels, is driven by a combination of starting childbearing later, smaller families and an increase in permanent childlessness (Carmichael 2007:112). The incidence of childlessness in Australia has fluctuated from an estimated peak of 30% of women around 1900 (Rowland 1998:20) to less than 10% during the baby boom years (Merlo 2000:21).

In 1999, 11% of women aged 45-49 were childless (ABS 2000) and projected that 20-25% of Australian women of reproductive age would remain childless. (Merlo 2000; ABS 2000, ABS 2017, Ford 2003). Of women born in the 1960's, permanent childlessness was forecast at 27-31% (Evans 2001:47). Whilst the 2016 census data predicts that childless couples will be the most common family type by 2023 (Corsetti, 2017), we need confirmatory data about the incidence of childlessness and clarification if it is voluntary or involuntary as there are significant differences and both personal and social impacts of involuntary childlessness.

A Dutch meta analysis suggested only 10% of childless women actively choose not to become mothers leaving 90% as childless not by choice. Of this group, 9% are childless for medical reasons and the remainder childless by circumstance. (Kiezer, 2010) . Whilst the desire to remain childless is trending upward (Evans 2001:47), only 7 per cent of Australians would like to be childless (Evans 2001:47) and 9% of those born in the 1960s wanted to be childless, leaving 18 to 22% who would rather have had children (Evans 2001:47). We need confirmatory data about this.

Research indicates the significant social and personal impact of involuntary childlessness (Greil 1997). Clearer statistics about the incidence and circumstances of involuntary childlessness are needed. Cannold (2004) explored orientation to motherhood as a factor in childlessness, and found that a significant proportion are responsive to circumstances in determining their parenting choices eg finding a suitable partner. This suggests an examination of policies that optimise the circumstances for desired parenting in the fertile years may reduce involuntary childlessness.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Yes. The declining birthrate in Australia (ABS 2017) affects the whole population, including the economy, reliance on immigration, cultural change, etc. This is particularly a concern if this declining birthrate is in part due to childlessness (Carmichael 2007: 112) and potentially up to 90% of people who are childless not by choice (Keizer, 2010). Further research indicates that decision making around parenting for a significant proportion of people is responsive to circumstances during the fertile years (Cannold 2004).

Involuntary childlessness can be due to the “intensification of competing desires, declining support, increased financial stress, or postponement leading to eventual permanent childlessness”. (Evans 2001:48, Koert 2017:89)) More recent studies suggest that whilst economic downturn might be a factor, the fundamental shift in women’s life trajectory has meant smaller families and involuntary childlessness. (Carmichael 2007) Few did not have children because they were too ‘career focused’ or hadn’t ‘got round to it’ (Carmichael 2007). Finding an appropriate long term partner seems to be an important part of childbearing decisions (Berrington in Kreyenfeld et al 2017:72)

Further research is needed to understand the circumstances favourable to achieving desired parenting decisions during the fertile years and the implications for government policy, and social and cultural changes.

Further a greater understanding of the motherhood journey for young women during their fertile years is suggested. Juggling the demands of work, education, financial challenges and finding a suitable partner leads to women delaying motherhood which can lead to permanent (and unintentional) childlessness (Evans 2001).

Financial incentives such as taxation, child care, portability of entitlements (such as long service leave), incentives for part time work for parents, continuity of women’s careers, moving between part and full time work, family friendly work places, reducing the ‘mothering stigma’ in workplaces may contribute. These important social policy questions need further exploration, and the collection of the data on involuntary childlessness through the Census forms a solid basis for this work.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

We suggest very simple and clear questions as follows:

SUGGEST ADDING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(EXAMPLE ONLY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION)

For people over 44 years old who do not have children. Is your childlessness a result of:

- your choice
- infertility
- not the right circumstances during your fertile years
- other _____

If circumstances were different, would you have chosen to have children?

- yes
- no

Given the potential grief reaction and definitional issues of "choice", further discussion is suggested about the actual wording of these questions. Also suggest including possible support referral options for those experiencing distress about their involuntary childlessness.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Involuntary childlessness could be considered a sensitive topic for many people.

Beyer (2004:333) notes that whilst they are not a clinical group who need psychotherapy, the development of specific counselling for infertile and permanently involuntarily childless women is needed.

A preamble about why this information is being collected might be helpful. We would suggest working on this to include the purpose and possible outcome for collecting this data.

For example - to inform government policy about the incidence of involuntary childlessness and to create favourable circumstances for parenting decisions for people during their fertile years.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Yes to all of the above. We suggest that a couple of very simple questions could significantly progress knowledge and research in this field.

The simple data suggested is:

- incidence of childlessness (already collected - age, number of children, gender)
- whether childlessness is voluntary or involuntary (suggested new question)
- whether decision making around parenting would have been influenced by circumstances favourable to parenting (suggested new question)

Articulation of data

- the gap between desired parenting (new data) and the incidence of parenting (current data)
- The responsiveness of parenting decisions to circumstances during the fertile

years (new data)

This could lead to further research about

- the impact of involuntary childlessness, particularly grief and loss support and recovery, and nurturing the significant positive contribution of childless people in the Australian community
- the circumstances that impact on parenting decisions during the fertile years
- the impact of government policy on parenting choices during the fertile years

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Whilst we have data on the incidence of childlessness, we have significant gaps in data about whether childlessness is voluntary or involuntary, and how responsive parenting decisions are to circumstances during the fertile years (Cannold 2004)

Given the increasing proportion of people who are childless (up to 31% of people born in 1960 Evans 2001: 47) and up to 90% of this group are childless not by choice (Keizer 2010) this is an increasingly significant ongoing issue . A significant proportion of the population is potentially living with the ongoing grief or chronic sorrow of involuntary childlessness (Greil 1997). This has multilayered impacts including on personal wellbeing, social relationships, employment, etc. (Bateman-Cass, 2000; Burns, 2005; Daniluk, 1997; Harris and Daniluk, 2010; Johansson and Berg, 2005; Pavone, 2005, Koert 2017:89)

Additionally, there is potentially significant costs to the Australian community and planning needed as childless people age. One of the fears expressed by people dealing with childlessness in mid life is the fear of ageing alone without children to look after them (Spear 2016:145). Due to the cost of children and continuity of work, childless people have more resources coming into retirement (Dykstra 2007), but they are more likely to be in costly institutional

care and more likely to be alone (but less likely to be lonely than parents who have not had recent contact with their children). (Dykstra 2007)

It appears that the 'life grief' at midlife may give childless people decades to prepare for aging by forging closer connections with extended family, friends and siblings, particularly non-parenting siblings. (Dykstra 2007) Childless men struggle more with later life, particularly if they are not in an intimate partnership. (Dykstra 2007) This indicates a potentially increased financial burden on the community as the swelling childless population ages.

More in depth information about this issue for the current and future Australian population and its impact on both a social and personal level, we strongly suggest consideration of including these questions in the Australian census.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no single comprehensive Australian data population source on involuntary childlessness.

Further, these suggestions are an extension that complements existing data collection by the ABS through the Australian Census.

Given that this issue is projected to affect up to a quarter of the Australian population (Merlo 2000; ABS 2000, ABS 2017, Ford 2003), the gathering of data and exploring appropriate responses are long overdue.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

In an increasingly complex world of choices, circumstances and social relationships, the issue of involuntary childlessness has primarily flown under the radar. Dykstra (2007) warns of the dangers of overlooking diversity and assuming deficiency in childless. The negative social stereotype of “the crazy cat lady”, the barren, bitter and lonely old spinster (Sangster 2014) sits at odds with the complexity and richness of women’s lived experiences. (Cannold, 2004).

As women try to avoid these stereotypes, it can minimize the very real grief and loss. Media narratives of pronatalism (Graham 2015), childfree by choice and the miracle IVF stories (Harris 2011:178) can further hide this grief. (Sangster 2014).

Childless women report feeling their lives and grief as invisible and disenfranchised. Raising community awareness about the experience of involuntary childlessness, grief literacy and illuminating alternative routes to adulthood may assist. There appears to be a wide gulf in life experiences between women who are involuntary childless and their peers who move into motherhood. Further exploration of this and how to bridge these divides is suggested.

How does the unwanted failure of a woman to create her own nuclear family impact on her experience of adulthood, the development of a sense of self and identity and inclusion in the community? What are ways that involuntarily childless women can grieve their losses, build meaningful relationships with children and make their contributions visible in their communities? Opportunities highlighting role models in media and culture may challenge stereotypes and break isolation.

The voices of involuntary childless women need to be heard, telling their stories, presenting factual data to break stereotypes, and to highlight their social contribution and resilience. The ability of women to thrive following heart breaking life crises is one of the potential gifts of involuntary childlessness. Illuminating this journey creates opportunities for support and connection, and presents a greater diversity of role models. (Greil 1997, Koba 2016)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 869494715

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Race Discrimination Commissioner

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Human Rights Commission

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐

- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Please refer to PDF submission (attached).

Attachments

☐ [BHLF-9KFG-XK27-W.pdf](#)

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 117077073

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Please include Powered Two-Wheelers (motorcycles) as a recognised form of transport for commuting to work rather than just a recreational vehicle

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Many thousands of people commute to work using motorcycles or scooters, ie “powered two-wheelers”. The state of roads, methods of traffic control, design of safety barriers, medical research into road trauma, efforts to control congestion and pollution are all affected by the the composition of traffic and the proportion of various vehicles.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The number and distribution of motorcycle commuters is important as it is a primary tool for combating road congestion. Currently many thousands of people are being overlooked in this regard.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic can be answered with the addition of a single, unambiguous option to the question regarding how people commuted to work.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The question is whether a person used a motorcycle or scooter to commute to work. It is no more intrusive than asking if they used a bicycle, walked, used public transport, or drive a car, which are the other options in the same context.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The question itself will require one extra option be entered on the form. It will not represent any significant extra printing or any other costs.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The proportion of what modes of transport people use is a repeating question over many years in the census. In that time this question has never been fully explored. As motorcycles and scooters become more popular forms of transport this question is likely to become more important in the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This question currently goes unanswered. If there is no need to offer this option then the existing form of the question is also not needed. Since the data regarding transport methods obviously IS required for policy and legislative purposes it is only responsible to include the option that represents a significant proportion of the population but which has not been collected as yet. This has in effect lead to the previous years census data being corrupted at worst and incomplete at best.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 982700067

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

DVA is seeking the inclusion of an "Australian Defence Force Veterans Indicator" topic in the 2021 ABS Census.

There is a real need to be able to:

- accurately estimate the number of people in the Australian population who have ever served in the ADF; and
 - know more about the whole veteran population (age structure, geographic distribution, sex breakdown, employment status, housing circumstance, etc).
- This information can be used by DVA and other relevant government organisations to inform policy and planning decisions to improve the delivery of services to all veterans and fulfil the duty of care to look after this important population after they finish their ADF service.

Currently, data on veterans is surprisingly scarce. While DVA has a great deal of information about some clients and a small amount of information about other clients, a large proportion of veterans are not DVA clients at all.

DVA has very little information about the population of veterans that are not clients, which makes it difficult to know whether we are providing the services and support they need and to plan accurately for the future. The existing data held by DVA on its current clients do not provide information about their characteristics in order to help inform around high priority policy issues such as post-ADF employment, homelessness, access to services provided by other agencies, or social and economic outcomes for families of veterans. Nor does available survey data provide the sample size necessary to analyse or model the veteran population accurately.

Therefore, a topic in the ABS Census would be the best way to meet these essential data needs.

This submission has been developed in consultation with, and has the support of, the Department of Defence (“Defence”) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (“AIHW”).

For the purposes of this submission, the term “veteran” is used to describe “a person who is serving or has served in the ADF” (Tehan, 2017). It is not specific to those with any particular type of service or entitlements. However, the submission also assumes that a Census question would allow for data analysis to distinguish between current and ex-serving members, which is important for policy and planning purposes considering the comprehensive health care and other support provided for current serving members by Defence.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work

- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

A range of published health studies show that ex-serving ADF members have distinct characteristics and health needs that require special consideration due to their military training, service and deployments. Recent public attention has also focused on non-health issues, such as employment outcomes post-separation, homelessness and the challenges faced by families of veterans (Australian Government Productivity Commission May 2018, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) 2013, McFarlane et al 2011, Sim et al 2015, TUNRA 2004, Van Hooff et al 2018).

The Australian Government and community has a particular responsibility to look after those who have served in the ADF and been exposed to these risks, and their families.

DVA is one of the largest purchasers of health services in Australia, therefore it is important for DVA programs to be delivered as efficiently and effectively as

possible. Census data would assist with planning and costing for future services to make sure the Department is well positioned to provide the right services, when and where they are needed.

Capturing data about all veterans through the ABS Census will allow us to quantify the exact number of veterans in the population, especially those who have not engaged with DVA, as well as their geographic distribution and life circumstances, and how these change at different life stages. Collecting this information will help the Government provide more targeted and effective support strategies and develop policies and programs to optimise support to veterans and their families.

The Australian Government has funded DVA to undertake its single biggest change since its inception in 1918; the Veteran Centric Reform Program, which was initiated in 2015 and commenced in 2017. The Government and our clients are driving the change with expectations for DVA to modernise, become more proactive, become data driven and, ultimately, improve the client experience. To do so, reliable and comprehensive data about veterans' life circumstances at each stage after leaving the ADF is critical to enable better planning and modelling for new service development and delivery.

DVA is developing a wide range of new initiatives, including those under the Veteran Centric Reform program, which would benefit from knowing where to target services and communication, which sub-populations to aim particular messages at and whether the new programs have an impact on the circumstances of this population over time. For example, data on workforce status across the veteran population (including time series) could help inform and measure the impact of initiatives to improve employment outcomes, such as initiatives under the Prime Minister's Employment Program (DVA n.d, DVA Spring 2017).

Understanding the life journey of veterans after they have transitioned from the ADF would also assist Defence to better prepare personnel for transition out of Defence, and potentially improve the chances of a successful integration as a civilian (eg securing suitable employment, housing and access to services and establishing connections within the community).

In 2017 the Roundtable of Australian Veterans' Ministers (representing federal, state and territory governments) supported the inclusion of a veteran identifier on the Census because it would "assist all levels of government to better provide services and support to veterans and their families" (Tehan 2017). For

example, State and Territory governments are responsible for services such as criminal justice and public housing which are important for supporting the most vulnerable veterans, and education which is an important service for highly mobile Defence families.

Internationally, the need for more data to quantify and understand veterans' needs has also been recognised as important. Statistics Canada, and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the UK, are exploring the inclusion of veteran topics in their 2020 and 2021 Censuses respectively, with the ONS highlighting the benefits of being able to identify where targeted support for veterans is needed (ONS 2017).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is currently no comprehensive data on the total number of veterans in Australia. Estimates by DVA based on historical modelling and data, and from research using ABS surveys, vary from around 600,000 to as many as 780,000 veterans. A Census of the whole population would, first and foremost, be able to definitively answer the critical question "how many veterans are there?".

In addition, it would build from there to provide other essential information such as the age structure of the whole veteran population, how they are geographically distributed across Australia, whether that distribution varies by any particular characteristics (for example age, sex, employment status or household structure), and whether it coincides with the current availability of services and support.

While DVA has some demographic information about the veterans who are our clients, this is estimated as perhaps only 20 per cent of all veterans from contemporary conflicts.

Data from a whole of population Census would fill these critical data gaps. It would help DVA to understand the likely changes in the size and geographical

spread of the veteran population over time, ready for when those from contemporary conflicts get older and would be likely to access more DVA services.

Importantly, knowing where veterans are concentrated geographically and the age distribution across regions would also help target appropriate messages for health professionals who could assist in help-seeking and service access.

For example, Census data could improve service delivery by informing the training of General Practitioners (GPs), psychiatrists and psychologists on awareness of military trauma. As our existing data does not enable us to target regions with larger concentrations of veterans, DVA's current approach is to target medical practitioners working near military bases. However there is little reason to assume, that on leaving the ADF, veterans settle in areas near military bases. If we knew the geographic spread of these veterans, and other key demographic characteristics, our planners and providers would be better equipped to understand the needs of veterans and could administer more efficacious treatment. It is more efficient to target health workforce training to practitioners likely to be used by veterans than to rely on a national, one size fits all approach.

Combining the veteran identifier with other characteristics in the Census would also be valuable for topics of high policy significance and public interest, but where DVA does not directly provide services and so has very limited data even for our clients. These include labour force status, housing suitability, address five years ago and characteristics of other persons in the family/household. This richer information would help DVA and other relevant government agencies and ex-service organisations to understand and respond to the veteran community's needs, across many important domains of wellbeing.

Survey samples are usually not large enough to capture a statistically useful number of veterans, especially when disaggregated for characteristic analysis (particularly analysis of female veterans). In a recent study done by the ABS for DVA, analysis of female veterans was not possible in any of the household surveys used in the study due to the small sample sizes (ABS 2017).

ABS have provided advice to DVA around the possibility of using small area modelling from a large sample survey to meet our data requirements. It is possible that modelling will partially meet our data needs, but due to probable high error at lower geographical levels is unlikely to meet our need for small

area data over time. Given that small area data are one of the key data needs around the veteran population, for example to inform future service planning and provider education at a local level, the usefulness of such modelled data would be limited.

DVA would also strongly support the addition of a health topic in the Census. If combined with an ADF veteran indicator question, this would further significantly increase the capacity of DVA and other veteran support organisations to understand and respond to the needs of veterans and their families in a more targeted and evidence-based way.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

ONS in the UK has undertaken large scale testing on a veteran topic for their census, which involved participants exploring the wording of various questions through interviews and focus groups. The main results from this testing confirmed that the questions are generally well understood and accurately answered by participants (ONS 2017). Further work could be done in the Australian context to ensure any relevant distinctions (eg between current and former serving members) could be captured accurately.

The topic requires a maximum of two questions with short picklists of categorical response options. Similar questions are already asked successfully in some ABS surveys.

The second question in the topic would indicate whether the person is a DVA client or not. This would enable the ADF veteran indicator data to be analysed and interpreted more accurately for policy or service planning purposes. For example, it could help us to understand at a population level whether veterans who are not DVA clients tend to be concentrated in particular geographic areas. If DVA had this information, DVA could more accurately gauge where to direct services and communications.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Veterans are commonly proud of their service and asking people about whether they have ever served in the ADF is unlikely to be perceived as being intrusive or offensive. The Australian community generally acknowledges the need for DVA to have an accurate understanding of the veteran and current serving population in order to provide the required services and support to those who need them. Therefore, it is expected that those who have not served in the ADF are unlikely to find such a question controversial.

The topic would sit in the context of the strong emphasis around the Census of privacy and confidentiality and so reassure respondents that individual responses would not be output, with data only reported as aggregated statistics.

Testing by the ONS found that 88 per cent of those answering the test question thought it was acceptable to ask on their 2021 Census, and 81 per cent thought it was acceptable to answer an armed forces question on behalf of someone else in the household (ONS 2017). This is promising in the Australian context.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It is anticipated that respondents would be provided with a short list of possible responses so there would be few difficulties with coding or processing.

Some limited additional information may be needed to help respondents to

accurately identify their relevant service.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The need for data on this unique population will continue.

Changes in the tempo of Australian deployments can significantly influence the number and characteristics of those leaving the ADF so the size and characteristics of the veteran population changes over time, making regular updates important. Changes in mortality rates over time also mean regular updates will be needed.

Over time, the evolving nature and pace of change in military technology, service and conflict experiences is likely to result in new challenges for serving and ex-serving members and therefore new policy and program requirements for DVA.

A time series would be very valuable for understanding the life journey of those who have ever served in the ADF in the years and decades after separation. The current focus of the Veteran Centric Reform program on identifying and meeting the needs of veterans with new initiatives makes 2021 a critical Census for introducing this indicator and allowing DVA to build a body of evidence into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data relating to veterans who have left the ADF and are not engaged with DVA are particularly scarce and even for DVA clients the available data are mostly related to health service use, not broader aspects of a person's wellbeing. Therefore, the ABS Census would be a superior way of capturing current information about the number and circumstances of all veterans.

DVA's examination of alternative data sources or solutions, including nominal rolls, administrative data, surveys and data integration, has been extensive and highlighted the significant data gaps that still exist that cannot be filled using other data sources.

The main issues limiting the usefulness of other sources include:

- Sample sizes are not sufficiently large enough to be able to output the required characteristics or low level of geography required to effectively inform policy planning and service delivery.
- Records are not complete.
- Data were collected in the past and therefore do not provide an accurate picture of the current veteran population.
- Particular categories of veterans may not be included (e.g. nominal rolls only cover those with service in specific conflicts.)
- Obsolete administrative data have been lost over time, e.g. when systems were upgraded.
- Potentially useful variables that would be available from Census data are not available from administrative data (e.g. information about employment or household structure.)
- Reliable veteran indicators are not available (e.g. using "source of income" indicators are unreliable due to common confusion between the DVA Disability Pension and the Centrelink Disability Support Pension.)
- Administrative data is limited to those receiving particular services or engaging with the relevant agency. (e.g. Unemployment benefits data does not capture those who are currently employed or the nature and quality of that employment; homelessness services data does not capture those with unsuitable or unstable housing.)

Further details are provided below about specific data sources that have been explored.

Defence administrative data

Defence has a good level of administrative data about current serving ADF members. However, Defence does not maintain records of ex-ADF members' locations or post separation circumstances through any means. Recently Defence has initiated a post separation survey conducted at several intervals through the first year after transition, but response rates decrease significantly over time.

Data integration opportunities are being explored with Defence and the AIHW but there is no certainty that they will be successful, particularly for data from older systems. Defence has personnel data for ADF members who have served since 2001 (introduction of the current personnel data system) but this does not provide information about current circumstances for personnel who have separated from the ADF. Personnel data is available for ADF members prior to 2001, but the older the data is the more its fidelity reduces. Data between 1985 and 2001 appears to contain details of all personnel who have served in the ADF, but as the data gets progressively older, the proportion of members included reduces along with the number of data fields, reducing the feasibility of data linkage. The size of the veteran population and amount of time passed means it would not be feasible to refer to archived paper records, which can be inaccurate and a resource intensive process.

ABS Surveys

There are ABS surveys that have recently included an ADF veteran indicator, but as detailed under Criteria 2 the sample sizes are not sufficiently large enough to allow the data to be disaggregated by the characteristics required to effectively inform future policy and service delivery (such as younger age groups, female veterans and low levels of geography) (ABS 2016 & ABS 2008).

Comsuper

Deaths data from ComSuper's Military Superannuation schemes was matched with National Deaths information to identify deaths of veterans. The Comsuper data was purely an administrative source and information was collected for the sole purpose of determining retirement and deaths benefit scheme eligibility. Clients who had inactive accounts, left the scheme and/or died were lost off the system when new systems or system changes were introduced (the two main changes occurring around 1988-90 and 2001). With their information

unavailable for linking, the resulting data were incomplete, producing erroneous results. Inactive accounts resulted from people who had started at a new place of employment and joined another super fund but had neglected to roll their super into the new fund. Younger veterans are likely to fall into this group making this linkage ineligible.

Nominal Rolls

A nominal roll is an index of information that provides a 'snapshot' of individual service gathered from service records. Prior to the early 1970s (end of Vietnam War), the records of serving members is restricted to that covered in nominal rolls. These nominal rolls were compiled manually using archival material that may have been lacking key information.

The Nominal Rolls we hold include members who served during World War Two, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War. While these rolls provide us with an idea of the number who served, they do not provide us with the count of veterans who were not deployed overseas during these conflicts and during peacetime (see: DVA 05/06/2018).

Medicare Enrolments Database (MEDB)

The MEDB identifies those people already in contact with DVA, it does not currently include an indicator of service history for everyone, and therefore was not pursued as a data source on serving members and veterans.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 150465729

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The ABS Census have been providing accurate homelessness estimates that have enabled local services as well as social planners to reflect on the service delivery to young people and to ensure that wherever possible programs are positively impacting on the lives of young people and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Queensland Youth Housing Coalition submission identifies areas where there are currently issues with the forms and recommendations for consideration in any changes to the form for the 2021 Census.

Proposed changes to Census Household form changes

1. Question 3 –is the person male or female

Include an option for a drop down list of LGBTI or for the option of a free text box, both options reflective of the fact that not all people identify as male or female.

2. Question 5 – what is the persons relationship to Person 1/Person 2

As many young people are couch surfing and in many cases in the homes of their friends if the data can be more explicit this will provide a better picture of where young people are residing on Census nights.

Additional questions could include;

What is your relationship to that person1?

3. Question 8 – where does the person usually live?

In terms of people couch surfing there needs to be an acknowledgement that people may not have a usual residence and this a more explicit way to describe this needs to be included.

This could be in the form of an additional Tick-box response options for people with no fixed address (NFA) and would include supporting instructions e.g if you usually rough sleep or if you are couch surfing please write NFA

4. Question 9 and 10 – where did the person live 1 and 5 years ago

There should be an option to note that people again may not have had a NFA.

However, caution is needed

here as there cannot be an assumption that a person is chronically homeless.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing

- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Homelessness

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The ABS Census have been providing accurate homelessness estimates that have enabled local services as well as social planners to reflect on the service delivery to young people and to ensure that wherever possible programs are positively impacting on the lives of young people and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The policy objective in homelessness programs should be that the experience of homelessness for young people is short, rapidly resolved and not chronic. This would enable young people to move out of homelessness and to be able to undertake positive life opportunities.

The Census data provides the homelessness sector both in government and the NFP sector a key indicator every 5 years and to explore trends. It provides a picture of where homeless young people are across the age bracket of 12 to 25 years and where they are living in the community. It enables policy and practice responses to be based on data and evidence. In particular if we can better understand the numbers of

young people who are couch surfing a more effective response to their needs can be developed. Further, this issue is vitally important because if people who are couch surfing are forced for whatever reason into the formal homelessness support service system this will overwhelm those services where demand is already exceeding supply - not to mention the trauma that is caused.

Homelessness is a national issue, it is not one that can be dealt with alone on a State by State level. Responding to homelessness requires government and community to work together to develop strategies to reduce homelessness. The Commonwealth Government has agreed to a National Housing and Homelessness Agreement with the State and Territory Governments. What has been identified in the development of the Agreement and is supported by QYHC is the need for transparency and accountability about the deliverables under this agreement.

The Census data is a vital element for the provision of accurate homelessness data along with the AIHW datasets and those from other community and NFP partners.

There has been an increase in the numbers of young people that are experiencing homelessness in the 2016 census and an understanding of the numbers, rate as well as characteristics enables models to be funded and developed.

1

The Census data can be aligned to other data sets as well to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the drivers of homelessness such as the administrative data sources such as the AIHW data, juvenile justice and out-of-home care data.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The administrative data sources such as the AIHW data, juvenile justice and out-of-home care data provide only a picture of young people who are in the service system. Many young people do not utilise the service system and couch surf. Therefore, the census provides a vital point in time data set. Young people (12 to 24 years) are a key sub-population. MacKenzie and Chamberlain (2003) clearly articulate that the homeless career is fundamentally different between young people and adults. They also highlight that inadequate support for homeless young people can create a transition to adult homelessness where adult homelessness “is not a separate career typology, but a continuation of the youth homeless career into adult homelessness” (p.vi).

Young people at risk of homelessness may be young people who:

- Have been harmed or continue to be at risk of harm from physical, sexual and emotional abuse and/or neglect;

- Have no significant caring adult figure who can exercise care and responsibility;

- Are engaged in risk taking behaviours and have families who are unable and/or unwilling to protect them from the harm this exposes them to;

 - Experience family conflict and breakdown;

 - Have no or limited support networks;

 - Are unable to value and respect themselves;

 - Experience emotional instability and/or mental health issues; and

 - Experience education and employment issues.

The protective needs of young people may be further exacerbated because of particular disadvantage due to cultural and social impacts such as:

- Young people with intellectual disability or learning difficulty;

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people;

- Young people from diverse cultural backgrounds;

- Young people with mental health conditions;

- LGBTI young people;

- Young people with substance abuse issues;

- Young people who are pregnant and parenting;

- Young people exiting child protection services, from either ageing out of care at 18 years of age or young people disengaging from child safety; and

- Young people exiting Juvenile Justice Services, particularly young people on

dual child protection and juvenile justice orders.

Whilst the Census may not be able to cover all risk factors or cohorts, there is still significant data that can be collected and modifications can enable more accurate data collection. A word of caution however, the Census is not an appropriate mechanism to ask about traumatic experiences, such as domestic and family violence and in many cases it may not be safe to do so.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The current strategy to count people who are experiencing homelessness is quite diverse and includes

- The Special Short Form (SSF)

- Inclusion of questions into the Census Household Form (HHF)

There is also a process of engaging with State government and the NFP sector where they are supporting homelessness people through the street count and green sticker approach.

6

Adding specific questions that relate to homelessness contribute will minimise any errors in homelessness assumptions.

A number of suggestions by members about promoting the Census to ensure a more accurate response rate were made as part of seeking responses for the census and included;

- promoting to young people and households that people not names in the tenancy agreement are able to be counted in the census and this won't be reported to real estate agents. This is a common barrier to young people that are couch surfing being counted. A question could be, is there anyone staying in your house

tonight that is not a regular household member? or something like that
ensuring strong support to service around Queensland to assist young people to fill out the Census form

Improving on how homeless people can access the form. Online version through centrelink/mygov,
handed one in person at centrelink. Funding for ground workers helping people complete the form.

Could city rough sleepers have access to food, showers etc. on census night and workers be there to help complete the form?

The person completing the survey is given a briefing (written) about the importance of including all people staying at the address

Use of social media such as Facebook to provide information to young people about the Census

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As noted earlier some caution needs to be applied with regard to questions about domestic and family violence if this places the person at risk. It may be the case where there is an elimination of answers – rather than the inclusion of questions may enable data assumptions to be made. The 2016 Census also highlighted the need to have a good communication strategy that highlights that personal identifiable information will not be shared – this will deal with concerns around parents finding out information and concerns about breaches of the lease with landlords in the case of overcrowding.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed changes may add some time to the collection of the data either through the Special Short Form (SSF) or the Census Household Form (HHF) but as noted earlier this will not be onerous to the people filling out the forms. There may be some addition work around the enumeration of the homeless population but this would increase the accuracy of the data and would outweigh any issues around addition work that is needed for enumeration.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Unfortunately, homelessness is an ongoing issues and the collection of data is required on an ongoing basis to assess the effectiveness of current strategies and programs to address homelessness both at a government, NFP sector and community level. Further once the data provides a clearer picture about the prevalence and characteristics of people who experience homelessness there may be a need to refine some of the questions particularly around health, mental health and disability issues.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no national collection of data that captures, at a point in time, the type of data that the ABS collects through the Census- it is the only source that provides a complete measure of homelessness prevalence in Australia. The current process has a high level of confidence in the NFP sector and government. Prior to Census collection homelessness data there was no consensus on the numbers of homelessness people living in Australia. This lack of consensus created policy tension and inconsistencies in the response to homelessness. The use of the Census data by State and Federal governments have not always been optimal but that is not an issue about the quality or nature of the data being collected, collated and analysed by the ABS.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Other content-related issues raised by community members and services are included below. Responses from members revolved around issues in relation ensuring that the Census accurately captured young

people couchsurfing and suggested questions such as;

If you were asked to leave this household tonight, do you have a place to go home to.

How many nights per year do you stay at this address? Or how often do you stay at this address?

How many people live in the house? Do you have a bedroom? Do you share a bedroom? Do you stay here

7 days / week? Do you sleep in a bed/on a lounge/on a mattress on the floor etc?

Are you here due to lack of other housing options?

Other suggestions for questions to be included in the Census:

In the past month, how many different households have you lived in? Drop down menu including options

like: "one household with an occasional sleep over" through to "I move between multiple places"

Why are you homeless?

Asking how many addresses they've stayed at over the past year/s. Asking how many of these addresses

have been stable housing options/their housing/they're on the lease. Asking if they've had no fixed

address? For how long over the past year/s?

How many dwellings/locations have you lived in during the last x months/years?

There were other concerns noted about:

people who are in correction centres because they had no fixed address and were denied bail.

8

"We need to find a way to measure those people in prison who, if they are released today, would not have a safe place to live tonight (we could add a second question, if you were given time to prepare for your release, do you think you would then locate somewhere safe to move to or are you homeless?)"

people who are in hospital either general wards or mental health facilities who are homeless.

"We need to find a way to check the people in Hospital and Mental Health wards who, if released today, would not have a safe place to live"

Lastly, there was broad agreement that communication about the special collections was insufficient and most of

the respondent were not aware of the special collection strategies around

homelessness.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 738323108

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

(Adjustment to Existing Question 34)

Be able to determine how many jobs a person held during the Census reference week; including occupation and industry for each.

As the nature of work changes over time there is an increasing public focus on individual employment patterns. In particular, there are claims of increased rates of casualisation, multiple jobs held, precarious job holding, and the rise of the 'gig economy'. However there is very little data available to quantify these claims on the scale of the Census, particularly to a defensible standard for public policy debate and determinations. There is an identified paucity of data on:

- the scale of these occurrences;
- the level of reliance on holding multiple jobs by individuals/households;
- the level of reliance on a workforce that reports to multiple employers; and
- the key demographics of the individuals/households employed in this manner.

The move to a primarily online Census collection opens up opportunities to expand the material collected through the traditional occupation-related questions, with reduced effort on the part of the survey responder compared to the older paper based forms. It is envisioned that this additional labour market information would assist Commonwealth and State Government public policy areas ranging from education, training, migration and unemployment assistance programmes.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

- There is little doubt that 'disruptive technologies' and the rise of the 'gig economy' are impacting the structure of the nation's labour market. The increasing rise of part-time work, multiple job holdings and income streams, and related issues of un/underemployment challenge the traditional model of a single employer per worker and a 'main' source of income. Greater diffusion of and complexity of employer hiring patterns and similarly the labour supply responses by individual workers to this demand means the current Census question on the "main job held" is increasingly inadequate. The lack of any other rich and detailed data in this area poses difficulties for labour market planning and policy development.
- Such detail is required to best inform policy design, determine labour market need and plan and report outcomes relating to those needs. Changes in how individuals work and engage with the wider labour market need to be reflected to ensure a stronger reporting and policy responses over the long term.
- Key policy areas across the Commonwealth and State Governments require an evidence base that is reflective of the structural labour market at a detailed occupational and industry supply and demand level. These include, but are not limited to, skilled migration pathways, and funding and reporting for the national Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. Such data would also play a key role as evidence in minimum wage cases conducted by the Fair Work Commission and its state/territory level equivalents.
- The Census provides the only opportunity for researchers, analysts, policy makers and others to acquire labour market data at a very detailed occupational level that can then be cross-referenced with a range of other geographic, demographic and economic indicators.
- Example 1): Funding and reporting for the VET sector is tied heavily to labour markets and in particular to occupations as defined by ANZSCO. Improvements to ANZSCO-related reporting of multiple job holdings by individuals in the Census would have a long term impact of being able to better target the correct areas for public financial and non-financial support. Occupations that are more likely to be secondary jobs for persons can be undercounted, which can lead to a gap / misalignment in training funding policies.
- o The forward estimates of the Commonwealth 2018-19 Budget flagged \$7.4

billion dollars of Commonwealth funding the nations VET sector, including through National Partnerships with State Government and through nationally run programmes including incentive schemes. These programmes and systems in place are primarily related to labour market planning based on ANZSCO and ANZSIC.

- Example 2): Australia's skilled immigration programmes rely on ANZSCO for policy design, defining visa eligibility, and also for reporting. Increasingly skilled migration policy settings are predicated on ensuring local workers are initially considered for any possible migration-related position, which underscores the critical value in understanding how persons of various occupations engage with the labour market. Such data could also be used to have a more responsive migration system.

- Example 3): Compositional analysis at an occupational level would provide a greater evidence base as an important input into labour market modelling (such as CGE and other econometric models) for use in many diverse areas such as detailed employment growth forecasts, state/territory treasury payroll tax revenue forecasting, wages growth forecasts, and similar. In addition, detailed occupational compositional information can provide a mechanism for improved data quality (via data confrontation and coherence) with other ABS labour market datasets such as the ABS' labour accounts, average weekly earnings, employee earnings and hours, and the wage price index.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

- There are only broad national estimates collected on an ad-hoc basis or anecdotal commentary surrounding this topic.
- Though it is suspected that age and gender have a significant influence on the likelihood of holding multiple jobs at any given time, there is no solid comprehensive data to corroborate these claims and to identify what occupations they may hold at a given time.
- Data for regional and remote populations is particularly important in Western Australia, but limitations in sample sizes mean it is very difficult to obtain reliable data on a regional basis, or to examine structural differences that exist

between metropolitan and regional/remote labour markets.

- Example: The ability to cross reference multiple job holdings with population demographics and education related data will be key for policy development over the long term – particularly in the VET sector where the emphasis on ‘just in time training’ is becoming increasingly prevalent.

- o Reliable data on the fluidity of an individual’s interaction with the labour market will be important for an evidence base for future training markets, in an environment where the competition for limited public resources is increasing.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- Respondents reporting on their own weekly work patterns and occupations is not viewed by DTWD as being onerous for individuals. This is already a key feature that has existed for some time in respect to a respondent’s “main job held”. This change may actually make the survey response somewhat easier for some responders who in the past may have struggled to select which of their occupations was the one to report on their Census return.
- The improved use of web based technology to assist in the completions of forms (to better align with ANZSCO/ANZSICs) is a further opportunity to ease the burden on respondents.
- While some extra time would be needed for those with more than one job holding to fill in their Census, survey design and presentation would be crucial for this proposed expanded question (please also see response to Criteria 5 for more information).

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- As noted above the proposed change does not request any answers to topics not already asked of respondents through existing Census and household surveys run by the ABS.
- The requested change would merely expand the number of occupations (and associated related answers) that can be listed when answering a question that is already asked.
- The requested change would only affect persons over the age of 15 who were employed during the reference week of the Census with more than one job held.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

- All statistical coding for this expanded question already exists largely through the ANZSCO and ANZSIC systems, or through International Labour Organisation (ILO) labour market statistical definitions already in use by the ABS and external agencies, analysts and researchers.
- The introduction of Census collection primarily being via a web-based portal opens up opportunities for existing questions to be expanded to collect additional information on the same topic with minimal disruption for the respondent (for example, weekly hours worked in each job held).
- Respondents would be asked to list their occupations in 'smart text fields' (linked back to and ANZSCO master table) or selected from drop down lists rather than having the option of only entering one free text response as is the case now.
 - o The use of smart text fields/drop down lists would assist in the processing of occupation details for the majority of respondents. Slightly tweaking the wording of the question explanation to ask respondents to think of their job not by the unique title but by the general occupation as it would be known in the community would also cut down on the need for individual processing to link

back to the ANZSCO.

- Respondents would only be required to answer questions about jobs they actually hold in the reference week. Where the respondent only has one occupation, they would only be asked questions once.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

- Given the increasing public attention towards the precariousness of employment across the Australian labour market, a public policy response through instruments such as taxation or education/training systems is highly likely.
- Having Census based data on this topic would provide a foundation for a policy evidence base across multiple government areas at the Commonwealth and State levels.
- It could also be the base for a potential long term ABS Labour Force Survey output via the regular household survey collection and the generation of estimates of multiple job holders through a regular 6202.0 or 6291.0 release.
- Labour market requirements remain central to Vocational Education and Training, and Skilled Migration policies and settings, including both funding allocations/eligibility determinations and reporting. The ability to better reflect labour market structures on the occupational side would assist long term in better targeting the needs in these areas. There are no indications at this time for a move away from ABS prescribed occupational and industry classifications.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet

the topic need.

No alternatives

- Though standard labour force materials' "hours of work" data encompasses all jobs held, when it comes to the number and what roles those employed persons are occupying the amount of material available diminishes significantly.
- Also these data sources are very limited for granular analysis due to the sample sizes they are based on, and they also do not have the ability to be cross-referenced / cross-tabulated by the very rich array of Census demographic and other data elements, and for small area geographies.
- All other known existing labour market data sources only focus on the primary occupation held when recording data in this area.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 833991139

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

(Additional link - existing Question 29)

Enhancement to the existing post-school qualification series of questions to allow for better linkages to be made to the respondent's occupation.

The current set up of the Census questionnaire is done in a way that isolates the education and training questions from the labour market questions further into the Census questionnaire. This limits the training question to the highest level of qualification held, and so has a flow on impact for researchers and public policy officers. With a growing importance on linking post school education and training to employment outcomes for public funding and reporting (particularly for the Vocational Education and Training sector), access to a detailed snapshot of employment and the pathways to becoming skilled is critical for policy research and development.

Though the DTWD acknowledges issues in rolling out an adjusted or additional question in this space, the broader impact of this change is still seen as

worthwhile in allowing for better data relationships in a policy space where these areas are drawing closer together.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

- Key policy areas across the Commonwealth and State Governments require an evidence base that is reflective of the structural labour market at a detailed occupational level. These include, but are not limited to, the skilled migration pathways and the national Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector where funding and reporting occurs both at a State and Federal level.
 - o Having access to detailed Census data that can more accurately reflect the linkages between the education and training pathways into the workforce for specific occupations and industries would assist in the improvement of the overall labour market evidence base and policy formulation, allowing for an improved targeted response in education, training and migration.
- The Census provides the only opportunity for researchers and analysts to acquire a rich set of labour market data at the detailed occupational level that can then be cross-referenced / cross-tabulated by the very rich array of Census demographic and other data elements, and for small area geographies.
- Funding and reporting for the VET sector is tied heavily to labour markets and in particular to occupations as defined by ANZSCO. Improvements to ANZSCO reporting and the ability to link this data more holistically to the education and training sections of the Census would have a long term impact of being able to better target the correct areas for public financial and non-financial support.
 - o For example: The ability to better identify areas of under-qualification, over-qualification and any general disconnect between available education/training pathways with specific occupations and industries will allow a greater level of response from Government on the suitability of current offerings from the education sector. This is also key for ensuring any future VET / University reforms and policy settings are established on the solid evidence base such data could provide, thereby leading to better outcomes for students, and also more appropriately targeted public funding of both sectors.
- This improvement would also assist the ABS in the longer term for future updates to the ANZSCO or future alternatives to occupational classification systems that will accurately reflect evolving skills levels for each occupation. This will have a direct flow on effect to wide array of Commonwealth and State level government programmes.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

- The ability to cross reference ANZSCO-based information with other data sets from the Census is increasing in importance for a labour market evidence base for public policy.
- The Census offers the only reliable chance to acquire a detailed snapshot of the relationship between post school education/training with the occupations currently held by individuals across the country; including identifying differences that have developed between different State jurisdictions.
- The ability to cross reference ANZSCO/education/training relationships with key demographics such as age and geography will better allow Government agencies to monitor education and training requirements and outcomes for each occupation across regions and age cohorts.
- Data for regional and remote populations is particularly important in Western Australia, but limitations in sample sizes make it very difficult to obtain reliable data on a regional basis, or to examine structural differences that exist between metropolitan and regional/remote populations.
- Post-school education and training information with population demographics and education related data will be key for policy development over the long term – particularly in the VET sector where the emphasis on ‘just in time training’ is becoming increasingly prevalent.
 - o Reliable data on the increasing fluidity of an individual’s interaction with the labour market will be critical for an evidence base for the future training markets.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- Respondents reporting on their own occupation of employment and their post school formal education history is not viewed by DTWD as being onerous for individuals.

- Individuals are also expected to be able to self-assess the relevance of their listed formal qualifications in relation to their current employment, if provided with guided answers deemed appropriate by the ABS (see also entry for Criteria 5 of this Submission).
- The improved use of web based technology to assist in the filling out forms (to better align with ANZSCO/ANZSICs) is a further opportunity to ease the burden on respondents.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- The requested change expands upon information collected on long running Census topics of education and employment that have received strong response rates from Census respondents in the past.
- The alteration and resulting outputs from its collection is likely to enable further reinforcement of the importance of post-school education and training options for the modern workforce (and how such links are best planned for / made by government decision-makers).

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

- From outside assessment, there are a number of possible approaches to closer link post school education and training to income and work portion of the Census collection, though separate issues are acknowledged with either approach:
 - o Approach 1 - Respondents could be asked to provide guidance on their experience of the relationship between their highest qualification held and their current occupation from a pre-set field of answers. Though it is acknowledged such self-assessment opens up responses to subjective bias, it is hoped that development of a guided response approach in this space could mitigate these risks. It is also noted that similar types of self-selection questions already exist within the Census such as the existing question 17 around the ability of the respondent to speak English.
 - o Approach 2 - A replacement to the existing question relating to highest qualification, where the current question asked for the 'highest qualification held' is replaced with one asks for the 'qualification that relates to the current occupation held'. It is however acknowledged that this change would cause significant upheaval for other users of the Census relying on monitoring change over time in the education and training space, and that not all persons complete a qualification for work related purposes.
- The introduction of Census collection primarily being via a web-based portal opens up opportunities for existing questions to collect additional information with minimal disruption for the respondent.
- Where the historical reliance on hand written paper based forms would be cumbersome, the use of drop down boxes and multiple text fields allows for answers to be entered promptly and minimises survey fatigue for the respondent.
- All existing statistical coding for this expanded line of questioning already exists through the ASCED, ANZSCO and ANZSIC coding systems.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

- Given the high level of attention to the importance of post school

education/training for employment outcomes both across the general public and also from public policy researchers, any improvement to data collection will be an ongoing requirement for informed debate and decision making.

- Other administrative data sets in this space, primarily the new Unique Student Indicator (USI) is still in its relative infancy and will not be widely useable by policy areas for a number of years. In addition the data linkage work that could possibly be carried out between this and other data to track the employment-related outcomes of training is still an unknown/to be determined by various Commonwealth Government agencies. Even if linkages were made it would not apply to most of the working population for a number of years due to the lack of a USI being issued during their schooling and key post-school training years.
- o Improved Census data on this topic could be used to help validate eventual work done with the USI in this space down the line.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

- Existing post-graduate outcome surveys for recent graduates (both through University and Vocational Education) only tangentially assess the linkage of qualifications to employment. The employment recorded in both cases does not necessarily have to relate to the study and qualification awarded to be counted as gainfully employed. As a hypothetical example, a person who completes a Bachelor of Commerce but is unable to find employment post-graduation in a skilled Commerce-related field, but remains in their existing low skilled student job (for e.g. in retail / hospitality or similar) would still be reported as gainfully employed in most job outcome surveys, even though such employment bares no relation to their completed study.

- o The VET survey run by NCVER does allow however allow for a level of self-assessment of survey responders around how the training recently undertaken relates to their currently held employment.

- These existing job outcome surveys focus on outcomes directly following the completion of education and training, and do not have any long term follow-up

to assess the longer term worthiness of an education/training pathway for the former student's chosen career.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 114659197

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

- Add a question similar to Q45 that is relevant to the questions regarding attendance at a school or any other educational institution (Q24 and Q25).
 - o How did the person get to educational institution on ...
- The range of responses will need to cater for those studying by distance education or online.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

- The data will support more effective planning and management of education and training infrastructure, including transport planning and student parking.
- This topic is of current and ongoing national importance, given that the 2016 Census found that educational institutions were attended by 30.8% of people in Australia.
 - o Of these, 26.7% were in primary school, 20.1% in secondary school and 22.0% in a tertiary or technical institution.
 - o In the context of WA vocational and education training alone, the Department of Training and Workforce Development is responsible for strategically developing, maintaining and managing around \$1.3 billion worth of land and building training infrastructure.
- Detailed spatial data on method of travel will assist with visualising and

exploring student flows, from the area in which they reside, to the area of the school, campus or training facility at which they study.

- The topic will support governments and educational institutions optimising assets to meet student demand for training, including specialised and industry relevant training infrastructure, and will also help guide asset disposal and sale reinvestment in training infrastructure priorities.
- The question will inform campus utilisation models and decisions around campus specialisation, for example decisions around whether specialist facilities at a given campus should be upgraded or the training moved to a different (or new) training delivery location.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

- Accurate modelling of campus utilisation requires data for small population groups and small geographic areas. Previous analysis of WA VET enrolment data looking at the proximity of campuses to student residence postcodes (including analysis of road network distances) has suggested that student flows are significantly affected by individual and geospatial characteristics, including:
 - o gender;
 - o index of relative socio-economic disadvantage;
 - o public transport availability;
 - o parking availability; and
 - o the cost of parking.
- It follows that the ability to integrate method of travel information with other characteristics collected in the Census and local administrative data holdings such as enrolment data will significantly increase the accuracy and value of the resulting analysis and models.
- Data for regional and remote populations is particularly important in Western Australia, given the significant differences between metropolitan and regional/remote travel times and transport infrastructure, along with variations between the respective student cohorts. Infrastructure costs also tend to be significantly higher in remote and regional areas.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- The question is not onerous for respondents to answer. Since the topic is essentially reusing an existing question, it should be readily understood by respondents.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- The proposed new question is not likely to be controversial. There are existing questions about method of travel and respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

- Since the topic is essentially reusing an existing question, it should not require a lengthy instruction or explanation

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

- The management of education and training infrastructure is of ongoing relevance to governments and educational institutions. Time series Census data would enhance existing datasets and provide a stronger evidence base across multiple government areas at the Commonwealth and State levels.
- Reliable data on campus utilisation and student flows will be important for an

evidence base for future training infrastructure development, in an environment where the competition for limited public resources is increasing.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

- There are no other alternative data sources available from administrative or survey sources.
- Similar data are collected for method of travel to work through the Census, and this request is asking to include information on method of travel to educational institutions.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

- It is proposed that a question the same as Q45 that is specific to educational institutions be added, instead of expanding the existing question to include methods of travel for educational institutions. This is in case the behaviour of the population (in terms of transport mode choice) attending educational institutions is different from the population that is working, and thus the reason for the request.
- The method of travel to educational institutions is relevant where the educational institution is separate from home or the mode of education is different from online/external/correspondence.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 603890420

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

(New Question)

What is the mode and security of the respondent's current form of employment?

Public discourse around the precariousness of employment has increased in recent years with an increased focus on workforce reliance on casual flexible hours and contract based employment.

Though the ABS has long referred to 'lack of leave entitlements' as a proxy for identifying the casual workforce, this could potentially not accurately encompass all the permutations that are highlighted when the public discuss insecure employment.

For example, this definition omits persons employed on short/long fixed term contracts that have a finite duration – either through employer choice or due to the nature of work itself (i.e. project length based employment). However these

contracts may have leave entitlements that omits them from the ABS definition relating to insecure work.

The new question would seek information regarding the basis the respondent was employed on; for example some options include permanent ongoing, permanent fixed term contract or a casual with variable hours (so as to limit respondent subjectivity as much as is possible).

In addition, the ability to cross-code this collected material against other labour market indicators such as ANZSCO, ANZSIC and the range of other demographic and household indicators available from the Census would be particularly prominent for policy makers and researchers across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

The information would also assist any general public debate on the issue, and particularly where concerning employment precariousness for new entrants into the labour market and/or those typically facing employment challenges such as youth, CALD groups, Aboriginal persons, recently arrived migrants, and others. It would also assist any job hunters by providing a better understanding of chosen fields while undertaking job hunting and career research.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

- Key policy areas across the Commonwealth and State Governments require an evidence base that is reflective of the structural labour market at a detailed occupational level. These include but are not limited to skilled migration pathways and the national Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector where funding and reporting occurs both at a State and Federal level.
 - o Having detailed data sets around the modes of employment for workforces belonging to specific occupations and industries would assist in improvement of the labour market evidence basis and policy formulation better targeted to specific areas of the labour market.
 - o For example: If (hypothetically) Census results showed that the vast majority of Civil Engineers were employed by their employers on fixed term contracts, this could open up avenues of inquiry for skilled migration policies around duration of temporary visas and eligibility of occupations where there is not secure employment.
- Such labour market details will also be used to best inform policy design, update funding settings based on labour market requirements, and reporting to ensure the best outcomes for taxpayers.
- The Census provides the only opportunity for researchers, analysts, policy makers and others to acquire labour market data at a very detailed occupational level that can then be cross-referenced with a range of other

geographic, demographic and economic indicators.

- Changes in how individuals work and engage with the wider labour market need to be reflected to ensure there is a stronger evidence base for any social / economic policy responses over the long term.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

- Though we suspect age and gender has a significant influence on the likelihood of being securely or insecurely employed, there is no solid data to corroborate these claims for distinct demographic cohorts of Australia's working population.
- Though an expansion of the ABS' current monthly household survey could be entertained for answering this question, there would be no ability to reliably provide statistical evidence for the likely follow up queries relating to the population demographics most at risk of insecure employment and/or what occupations and industries these workers fall into.
- The ability to cross-reference the mode and security of employment with population demographics and education related data will be key for policy development over the long term – particularly in the VET sector where the emphasis on 'just in time training' is becoming increasingly prevalent.
 - o Reliable data on the increasing fluidity of an individual's interaction with the labour market will be critical for any evidence base for future training markets.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- Similar questions around the mode and security of employment are already asked as part of the standard household survey which is increasingly moving towards an online response without the assistance of a trained interviewer.
- With some guidance and intelligent survey design, the ability for respondents to report on their own employment status is not viewed by the DTWD as being onerous for individuals.
- The improved use of web based technology to assist in the filling out forms (such as the inclusion of pop ups and tool tips to help define the modes of employment) provides a further opportunity collect more detailed labour market data Australia's workforce.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- The proposed change does not request any topics that are not already asked of respondents through other semi-regular ABS surveys.
- The issue around insecure employment is increasing in current public debate. The inclusion a question relating to this could be viewed as topical but not controversial given the broad research and policy evidence appeal of having a rich set of Census-related cross-tabulated data on this topic.
- The requested change would only affect persons over the age of 15 who were employed during the reference week of the Census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

- Respondents would be asked to respond to the question relating to their primary employment with controlled answers that reflect the primary modes of employment in accordance with current ABS defined parameters.
- Where the historical reliance on hand written paper based forms would be cumbersome, the use web based interface allows for answers to be entered promptly and minimises survey fatigue for the respondent.
- All existing statistical coding for this proposed topic exists largely through International Labour Organisation (ILO) labour market statistical definitions already in use by the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

- Given the increasing public attention towards the precariousness of employment across the Australian labour market, public policy responses through instruments such as taxation or through education/training systems and policy frameworks is highly likely.
- Having Census based data on this topic would provide a solid foundation for a policy evidence base across multiple government areas at the Commonwealth and State levels.
- Labour market requirements remain central to VET and Skilled Migration policies and settings, including both funding allocations and reporting. The ability to better reflect labour market structures, including the form of employment used on the occupational side would assist long term in better targeting the needs in these areas with appropriate training systems.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

- Existing Census data on Employment Type (EMTP) is limited to breaking down respondents to employers or employees, with some inferences able to be made around self-employment/sole operator status.
- This proposal would expand upon this section of the Census to assess the precariousness of an individual's connection to the labour market, particularly for those that are employees or self-employed relying on short term contract work.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 193935125

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD)

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

New question: in the main job held last week, was the person an Apprentice or Trainee?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

- The data is primarily needed to support policy development and planning. The Federal Government recently introduced legislation, the Migration Amendment (Skilling Australians Fund) Bill 2017, to create an extra 300,000 apprenticeships and traineeships, and to also ensure Australian industries have the skilled workforce they need for future growth.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

- Current nationwide data on apprentices and trainees in training is available for a limited set of demographics (gender, age, Aboriginal status, disability status, language spoken at home, previous education, location). The data would be enhanced in combination with Census data such as household information (income, expenses and family size), method of travelling to work, and migration.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- The question is not onerous for respondents to answer, and will be readily understood by individuals employed under a training contract.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- The proposed new question is not likely to be controversial. There are existing questions about whether the individual has previously completed an apprenticeship.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

- The question will require at most an option to select between either “apprenticeship” or “traineeship”. Minimal clarification may be needed to include only those training contracts registered with a State government authority.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

- Apprenticeship and traineeship data is of ongoing relevance to policy makers. Time series Census data would enhance existing datasets and provide a stronger evidence base for labour market analysis

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

- While the Census collects data on whether individuals have completed an apprenticeship in the past, information on the current stock of persons who

have yet to complete is not available in the Census.

- Data on current apprentices and trainees is collected by State Training Authorities and published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research as a series of tables and data slicers, with a limited number of demographic and occupational breakdowns.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 761596170

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australian Motorcycle Council

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The need to add a category to transport mode questions to ensure that data is collected on motorcycle and scooter use. For the purpose of this submission, the term "motorcycle" is intended to cover both motorcycles and scooters. An alternative, generic term used on some parts of the world for this collective is "powered two wheeler" or PTW.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Motorcycle ownership has grown in Australia by over 100% in the past 15 years. National, state and territory, and local government are all working to tackle increasing traffic and congestion - yet data around motorcycle use (one of the fastest-growing transport mode) is not currently available.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data is needed from the whole population - congestion is an issue facing all major cities and an increasing number of regional ones. The Census seeks to collect information on a breakdown of transport mode types, for example the last Census collected information on cycling, which was reported at less than 2% of work-related trips. Knowing the figure for motorcycle use would assist in transport planning.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Yes, this would be an easy matter for respondents to address. Anecdotal feedback received by the Australian Motorcycle Council shows that transport questions that fail to ask about motorcycle use is in fact confusing to people.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

There is nothing controversial about asking about motorcycle use. Again, our experience is that it's controversial that motorcycles are specifically excluded from some questions.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

This addition simply adds another specific category to transport mode - quite straight forward.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes, as Australia continues to deal with the challenges of an increasing population and traffic congestion, data on motorcycle use will assist in planning at federal, state and local levels.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no other means of collecting this information on a national basis, and adding motorcycles as a transport category is a logical step given the significant increase in motorcycle ownership and use over the past 15 years. In reality, this would be addressing an anomaly going forward.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Australia's 800,000+ motorcycle owners, and possibly well in excess of 1.5 million motorcycle licence holders, have wondered for many years why

motorcycle usage has been specifically excluded from travel data questions. The ABS is to be congratulated for this consultative process, and the Australian Motorcycle Council looks forward to data on motorcycle usage in Australia being collected as part of the 2021 Census. Our organisation is available to assist if needed to further clarify the need for this change.

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Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 765567784

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Infrastructure Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Infrastructure Australia suggests replacing the existing question on about access to internet at the dwelling level with a question that captures purpose of home internet usage at the respondent level.

We also suggest that respondents are directly asked the number of spare bedrooms at the dwelling, instead of computing it using the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Infrastructure Australia uses Census data as a critical resource for many of our functions, including:

- assessing nationally significant infrastructure projects
- providing infrastructure advice to Australian and state governments
- producing independent research to inform infrastructure policy.

We are incorporating a stronger data-driven focus in our work. In 2019, we will release the Australian Infrastructure Audit, which will comprehensively analyse public data to assess Australia's infrastructure needs. The Audit will then form the primary evidence base for the Australian Infrastructure Plan, which will outline Australia's key infrastructure policy priorities.

Our suggestion for a new question on purpose of home internet usage is in

response to the changing nature of employment. Detailed data on the extent by which home internet connections are used to contribute to productivity would better inform the planning and delivery of telecommunication services. We also suggest that the Census collects accurate information on spare bedrooms. This data would support broader policy debates concerning housing markets and house prices, urban planning and planning for changes in public transport capacity in established urban areas resulting from changes in housing policy. Housing affordability is a critical issue of national significance, and is important when viewed in the same lens as infrastructure costs and investments in expensive new projects in built-up urban areas.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Housing affordability is a nationally significant issue, and Infrastructure Australia believes it is valuable to be able to make comparisons of cost of housing between regions and within cities. We also contrast cost of housing data against other Census characteristics, such as Level of Educational Attainment, Labour Force Status, and Industry of Employment.

While we recognise that the ABS computes Housing Suitability using the Canadian National Occupancy Standard, we believe that this does not allow for detailed analysis of latent housing capacity to a sufficiently granular level. The Census presents an opportunity to collect this information reliably and directly from respondents, facilitating policy responses at a local scale, and from each level of government.

Data collected from our two suggested questions would be greatly enhanced through combining with other Census characteristics:

Contrasting number of spare bedrooms against ownership, dwelling type, and length of time living in Usual Residence (which we propose in our submission on the Location topic) would provide detailed characteristics of the people and locations which influence the availability of affordable housing.

Contrasting purpose of internet use against Journey to Work and location would better inform planning and delivery of transport and telecommunication services.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Infrastructure Australia suggests that additional questions can be structured to be easily understood by respondents:

“For what purpose does the person access the internet at home?”

- ☐ “Personal use only”
- ☐ “Work only”
- ☐ “Both work and personal use”
- ☐ “Does not access internet at home”.

“How many spare (not permanently occupied) bedrooms are there in this dwelling?”

- ☐ “No spare bedrooms”
- ☐ “One spare bedroom”
- ☐ “Two spare bedrooms”
- ☐ “Three spare bedrooms”
- ☐ “Four or more spare bedrooms”.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Infrastructure Australia does not foresee any issues with the Housing topic relating to acceptability to Census respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Infrastructure Australia does not expect that new questions on purpose of internet use and the number of spare bedrooms would be difficult to collect or process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The provision of infrastructure in urban areas using the most efficient policy or investment response is of critical importance to our highly urbanised

population. This information will grow in importance as Australia's cities grow and hold an even higher proportion of the national population over coming decades.

The ageing Australian population and relatively disproportionate level of home ownership by older Australians in Australia's larger cities is likely to lead to growth in the number of spare bedrooms in established urban areas over coming decades. Governments' ability to accurately measure and respond to this phenomenon could help to improve housing market liquidity, improve the efficiency of infrastructure investment, and deliver improved infrastructure service outcomes for users.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Infrastructure Australia's suggestion for a new question on purpose of home internet usage is drawn from a lack of alternative data source that sufficiently provides the required level of detail. The ABS formerly published Household Use of Internet Technology, but this did not include work purpose as a reason for accessing the internet, and was concluded in 2016-17.

Similarly, we are not aware of any existing data on spare housing capacity, apart from modelled data.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 22827549

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Infrastructure Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Infrastructure Australia believes that the Census could better capture the behaviour of employed persons who do not primarily spend their time at their listed Place of Work (e.g. mobile workforce, those who regularly work from home). We suggest two new questions relating to number of hours worked by location, in addition to the existing question on number of hours worked:

- number of hours worked at Place of Work
- number of hours worked at Place of Usual Residence.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)



- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Infrastructure Australia uses Census data as a critical resource for many of our functions, including:

- assessing nationally significant infrastructure projects
- providing infrastructure advice to Australian and state governments
- producing independent research to inform infrastructure policy.

We are incorporating a stronger data-driven focus in our work. In 2019, we will release the Australian

Infrastructure Audit, which will comprehensively analyse public data to assess

Australia's infrastructure needs.

Detailed, high quality spatial data on the characteristics of industries and the labour force will be critical to building the evidence base for this work. The Audit will then form the primary evidence base for the Australian Infrastructure Plan, which will outline Australia's key infrastructure policy priorities.

Income and Work data from the Census is a critical resource for our work. For instance, by combining Place of Work, Industry of Employment and Journey to Work data, we draw insights about travel behaviour based on characteristics of the workforce in a localised area – and use this to build the evidence base from which we make a business case assessment or produce a policy recommendation.

Our suggestion for new questions capturing number of hours worked by location is in response to the changing nature of work. We believe that there is great value for the Census to collect more detail on the mobility of the labour force. This data would be valuable to us in order to inform nationally significant policy discussions across key infrastructure sectors – especially transport, through analysing patterns of where and how people travel throughout the day.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Infrastructure Australia values data on Australia's working population being available in high geographic detail, as characteristics of employees and of work are strongly tied to location.

Workforce characteristics tend to differ dramatically over small distances.

We find great value in using Income and Work data in combination with other Census characteristics, particularly

Journey to Work. This is a major motivation behind our suggested questions on number of hours worked by location. Combining data on the mobility of the workforce with characteristics such as Journey to Work, industry of employment and income would allow us to build a stronger understanding of individual perspectives on infrastructure. The customer aspect is often neglected in the planning of infrastructure services.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Infrastructure Australia understands that the wording of a new question on time spent at Place of Work is critical for ensuring that valuable data is collected.

Respondents could be asked to respond in the form of number of days worked at the Place of Work in the previous week (“Five days or more”, “Three to four days”, etc.). However, this would fail to properly capture mobility of workers who spend each morning at their Place of Work but is then mobile for the rest of the day (e.g. visiting clients).

Instead, respondents could be asked to provide the number of hours worked at their Place of Work, to immediately follow the question on the Number of Hours Worked. A percentage figure could be computed from these two questions. These questions could be worded as follows:

“Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?”

“Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs at the workplace address of the main job, in Question X?”

Further value could come from an additional question could which immediately follows, to collect time spent

working at the Place of Usual Residence:

“Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs at the place the person usually lives, in Question Y?”

We recognise that this could produce unusual results for respondents who work multiple jobs – as they will be asked to provide hours for all jobs worked, and the Place of Work is only for their main job. However, we do not suggest that the question design be altered to resolve this, as we do not expect this to significantly distort the overall results.

If necessary, this could be addressed by an additional question which collects the location of work not at Place of

Work or Place of Usual Residence, with potential response options such as:

“other (second or third) jobs”

“other offices”

“client site”

“work travel”

“public”.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Infrastructure Australia does not foresee any issues with the Income and Work topic relating to acceptability to Census respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Infrastructure Australia does not expect that new questions on number of hours worked by location would be difficult to collect or process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Infrastructure Australia believes that Income and Work will always be a valuable component on the Census. Our suggested questions on number of hours worked by location is in response to the changing nature of work, and the need for infrastructure planning to appropriately cater to it. These drivers will continue to change into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Infrastructure Australia's suggestion for new questions on number of hours worked by location is drawn from a lack of alternative data source that sufficiently provides the required level of detail. ABS has previously published data on Locations of Work, but this was last released in 2008.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 699364497

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Infrastructure Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Infrastructure Australia suggests introducing a question on length of residence at Place of Usual Residence, to complement the current questions about Place of Residence 1 and 5 Years Ago.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Infrastructure Australia uses Census data as a critical resource for many of our functions, including:

- assessing nationally significant infrastructure projects
- providing infrastructure advice to Australian and state governments
- producing independent research to inform infrastructure policy.

We are incorporating a stronger data-driven focus in our work. In late 2018 we will publish a Reform Series paper

on inequities of outer-urban public transport, which features a major spatial component. It contains comparative analysis of Journey to Work data between and within Australia's largest cities, and the spatial richness of Census

data was invaluable for drawing these insights.

In 2019, we will release the Australian Infrastructure Audit, which will

comprehensively analyse public data to assess Australia's infrastructure needs. We will draw heavily from the Census to assess spatial differences in infrastructure capacity and usage. The Audit will then form the primary evidence base for the Australian Infrastructure Plan, which will outline Australia's key infrastructure policy priorities.

Furthermore, we rely on the spatial richness of Census data to build a detailed picture of local population and employment characteristics when assessing nationally significant infrastructure projects.

Our suggestion for a new question on length of residence at Place of Usual Residence would enable us to contrast locations that are undergoing rapid transformation against locations with an unchanged long-term character. This would provide stronger spatial evidence for targeting the planning and delivery of infrastructure and services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Location is intrinsically central to Infrastructure Australia's work. We value the ability to perform comparisons between regions of Australia, and to analyse characteristics at a city and sub-city scale. By building links between individual and community characteristics for a specific location, we are able to form the story of customer perspectives of infrastructure use.

We analyse Census data at high geographic detail in much of our research activity. In late 2018 we will publish a Reform Series paper on inequities of outer-urban public transport, which involves analysis of Journey to Work data at sub-city scales. We also use data at high geographic detail to build a localised evidence base for assessing

nationally significant infrastructure projects.

Collecting new data on length of residence at Place of Usual Residence in the Census would enable analysing the nature of change for small geographic areas. This would be an invaluable resource when used to assess the delivery of infrastructure services, which is a significant issue down to the suburb level.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Infrastructure Australia suggests that an additional question on length of residence at Place of Usual Residence be structured so that it is easily understood by respondents. It should immediately follow the question which collects their Place of Usual Residence, and be worded:

“How long has the person lived at this address?”

☐ “Less than 1 year”

☐ “1 to 5 years”

☐ “5 to 10 years”

☐ “10 to 25 years”

☐ “Greater than 25 years”.

Respondents could alternatively be asked to provide the specific year they moved into their Place of Usual

Residence, similar to how they are asked for their year of arrival in Australia.

This would provide a richer data set

and allow averages and medians to be calculated. However, we don't expect all respondents to know or easily

remember the specific year, so we suggest that our suggested categorical options would be sufficient.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Infrastructure Australia does not foresee any issues with the Location topic relating to acceptability to Census respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Infrastructure Australia does not expect that a new question on length of residence at Place of Usual Residence would be difficult to collect or process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Infrastructure Australia expects that producing data at rich geographic detail will always be a valuable component of the Census. We look forward to the ability to produce time series for small geographic areas, once further Censuses have their data published using the ASGS. Our suggested question on length of residence at Place of Residence is in response to the rapidly changing nature of Australia's regions, and is a topic that will continue to remain relevant as Australia plans for further population growth.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Infrastructure Australia's suggestion for a new question on length of residence is drawn from a lack of alternative data source that sufficiently provides the required level of detail.

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Response 712174438

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Infrastructure Australia

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We support introducing questions on Journey to Education, however continuity of the Journey to Work data series must not be compromised as a result. Also, we have concerns over the removal of the Motor Vehicles per Dwelling question, as we value the ability to combine it with other Census characteristics.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Infrastructure Australia uses Census data as a critical resource for many of our functions, including:

- assessing nationally significant infrastructure projects
- providing infrastructure advice to Australian and state governments
- producing independent research to inform infrastructure policy.

We are incorporating a stronger data-driven focus in our work. In late 2018 we will publish a Reform Series paper

on inequities of outer-urban public transport, which features spatial analysis of Journey to Work data within

Australia's largest cities. In 2019, we will release the Australian Infrastructure Audit, which will comprehensively

analyse public data to assess Australia's infrastructure needs. Transport data

from the Census will be a critical resource for this work. The Audit will then form the primary evidence base for the Australian Infrastructure Plan, which will outline Australia's key infrastructure policy priorities.

Our suggestions for new questions all address issues of national significance:

Data on when and how long people spend travelling to work will provide better evidence to inform demand management of roads and public transport service planning.

Active transport is a neglected component of transport planning, and we would value data on how much time Australians spend walking to work. The existing question does not allow us to distinguish people who walk considerable distances to their local public transport service from those who walk a short distance.

This data will allow researchers and planners to better recognise locations where public transport service access is insufficient.

Data on vehicle characteristics and how they change over time will better inform the discussion on the transitions toward electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing, and will also allow for picking out differences in adoption between cities and between communities.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Transport is a topic which is relevant across the entire Australian population, and Infrastructure Australia appreciates the detailed, standardised, national data on Journey to Work. This data allows us to ascertain infrastructure gaps for specific locations within and between regions, and this form of analysis will be prominent in our upcoming Reform Series paper on inequities in outer-urban public transport.

We regularly combine Journey to Work data with other Census characteristics, particularly housing, income, Place of Work, and Number of Motor Vehicles. By linking travel behaviour to individual and community characteristics, we are able to tell the story of customer perspectives of infrastructure use. This will be critical for forming the evidence base for infrastructure project assessments and for research, particularly our upcoming Australian Infrastructure Audit.

We would also value the ability to compare our suggested questions against other data. For instance:

Time of departure and length of journey against Method of Travel to Work, Place of Usual Residence and Place of Work, which would better inform demand management of roads and planning of public transport services.

Time spent walking against Place of Usual Residence, Method of Travel to Work, age and industry, which will help identify places with poor access to public transport, and the characteristics of the users who are disadvantaged.

Vehicle characteristics against Place of Usual Residence, age, income and industry, which will allow for analysing the uptake of emerging technologies and ride-sharing over time by personal characteristics and location.

Infrastructure Australia also uses the Motor Vehicle per Dwelling data in combination with other Census characteristics, particularly Method of Travel to Work, income, and Dwelling Type. This allows us to analyse the factors that drive high levels of private vehicle ownership, particularly against public transport services. We also use this data as an indication of household cost of vehicle ownership.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household

completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Infrastructure Australia suggests that new questions relating to Journey to Education be worded similarly to questions relating to Journey to Work, to ensure they are easily understood by respondents and to allow for the greatest level of comparability between the two data sets. We suggest the following question structure for our suggested additional questions so can be easily understood by respondents:

“What time did the person depart for work on Census Day?”

- ☐ “Before Census day”
- ☐ “12 am to 1 am”
- ☐ “1 am to 2 am”
- ☐ ...
- ☐ “10 pm to 11 pm”
- ☐ “11 pm to 12 am”.

If space is limited, response categories can be consolidated into 3 hour periods, except for AM peak which have one hour periods:

- ☐ “12 am to 3 am”
- ☐ “3 am to 6 am”
- ☐ “6 am to 7 am”
- ☐ “7 am to 8 am”
- ☐ “8 am to 9 am”
- ☐ “9 am to 12 am”
- ☐ ...
- ☐ “6 pm to 9 pm”
- ☐ “9 pm to 12 am”

Or, respondents could simply be asked to provide the specific time of departure.

“How long did the person spend getting to work on Census Day?”

- ☐ “Less than 15 minutes”
- ☐ “15 minutes to 30 minutes”
- ☐ “30 minutes to 45 minutes”
- ☐ “45 minutes to 1 hour”
- ☐ “More than 1 hour”

“How long did the person spend walking to work on Census Day?”

- ☐ “Less than 10 minutes”
- ☐ “10 minutes to 30 minutes”

☐ “30 minutes to 1 hour”

☐ “More than 1 hour”

7

If a respondent answered 'Car as driver' or ' Car as passenger' as their travel mode, “What type of car did the person use to travel to work” (mark all applicable boxes)

☐ “Conventional fuel vehicle”

☐ “Hybrid fuel/electric vehicle”

☐ “Fully electric vehicle”

☐ “Self-driving/autonomous vehicle”

☐ “Shared vehicle”.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Infrastructure Australia does not foresee any issues with the Transport topic relating to acceptability to Census respondents.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Infrastructure Australia supports the introduction of questions relating to Journey to Education. However, we understand that multiple questions are likely to be required to allow a similar amount of value as the Journey to Education data. We suggest that they be worded similarly to questions relating to Journey to Work so that the same processing method can be used.

We understand that there are various issues that need to be resolved through careful phrasing of the question.

These include:

- How to consider parents who drop off kids at school?

- How should origin of trip be captured? (i.e. separate full-time students who travel from Home to Place of Education from part-time students who travel from Place of Work to Place of Education)

However, as these issues are also relevant for the Journey to Work questions, we do not believe that adding additional questions to address these issues is worth the additional effort required by the respondent to answer the question or by the ABS to code the information.

Our suggested questions on length of journey to work, time spent walking and time of departure would not require lengthy explanation to the respondent. We provide suggested response categories in our response to Assessment criteria 3, which should not present onerous effort to code or occupy significant space.

We suggest that collecting data on vehicle characteristics be presented as a new question as we prefer that 'car as driver' and 'car as passenger' remain as the response options for the Method of Travel to Work question, in order to maintain continuity of the Journey to Work data set.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Infrastructure Australia expects that Transport data from the Census will continue being a valued, relevant topic long into the future. There is long list of driving factors which will maintain its relevance, including:

- political importance of infrastructure projects
- technological transformation
- changing nature of employment
- long-term city planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Infrastructure Australia's suggestions for additional questions are drawn from a lack of alternative data source that sufficiently provides the required level of detail. There are no nationally consistent, door to door metrics on travel time, apart from modelled data. Some states produce data based on travel card activity, but this does not reflect the full length of the journey – particularly time spent walking. Also, Infrastructure Australia has concerns over the possible removal of the question on Number of Motor Vehicles per Dwelling. We value this data set as we combine it with other Census characteristics, particularly Method of Travel to Work, income, Place of Work, and Dwelling Type. As the Motor Vehicle Census does not use ASGS geography, with only postcode level geography available within TableBuilder, it

is practically difficult to blend this data with other Census data.

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Response 77788974

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Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

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- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

State Trustees Ltd

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Office of the Public Advocate of Victoria (OPA)

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) is a Victorian statutory office, independent of government and government services that works to safeguard the rights, interests and dignity of people with disability (Guardianship and Administration Act 1986 (Vic) pt 3). The Public Advocate is appointed by the Governor in Council and is answerable to the Victorian Parliament.

OPA provides a number of services to work towards these goals, including the provision of advocacy, investigation and guardianship services to people with cognitive impairments and mental illness. Last financial year, OPA was involved in 1788 guardianship matters, 365 investigations and 322 cases requiring advocacy. More than 50 per cent of the people with an OPA guardian were 65 years of age and over (Office of the Public Advocate. Annual Report 2016-17, 14-18).

OPA has taken on a lead role in developing community education in relation to the Powers of Attorney Act 2014 (Vic) which commenced on 1 September 2015. Updated information about the Powers of Attorney Act, and more detailed and useful resources about planning for the future are offered on the OPA's website (www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au).

These resources include the popular Take Control publication, available in hardcopy and on OPA's website, has undergone its fourteenth edition update.

Take Control is a self-help guide that includes the information and forms you need to appoint a medical treatment decision maker, complete an advance care directive and make an enduring power of attorney in Victoria. OPA has also produced Your voice—Trust your choice: Tips for seniors making enduring powers of attorney. A companion to Take Control (2017).

Together with State Trustees Ltd, OPA has also produced Securing Their Future: Planning for the future when you care for a person with disability (2018). This publication sets out in simple terms, how those caring for Victorians with a decision-making disability can protect and safeguard their futures. It is available on OPA's website.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

As the Australian population ages, future planning is essential. Improvements in health, education and public safety have helped increase Australia life expectancies (e.g. introduction of seat belt laws and random breath testing in the 1970s, reduction in smoking prevalence, availability of medical treatment, etc.) In 2015, 13% of Australians were aged 65-84 and 2% were aged 85+, this is projected to increase to 18% of Australians aged 65-84 and 5% aged 85+ within the next 40 years. There are projected to be 7.0 million Australians aged 65 to 84 by 2055, compared with around 3.1 million in 2015. Similarly, both the number and proportion of Australians aged 85 and over is also projected to grow rapidly.

Source: ABS and Treasury projections referenced in the Intergenerational Report, 2015.

2 2 3 4 5

13 15

16 17 18

2015 2025 2035 2045 2055

65-84

85+

The Productivity Commission (Housing Decisions of Older Australians, December 2015) found that the financial planning of older Australians can be affected by cognitive constraints and imperfect information. Many people are reluctant to plan for their possible future ill health and end of life needs. This means that decisions can be prompted by crises and made at a time when the person is vulnerable. Further, where a person lacks capacity, their ability to ensure selfdetermination becomes less likely when their wishes are not documented. Future planning is inherently complex, with many older Australians avoiding or being uncomfortable with their own planning for retirement. Key financial concerns of older people are outliving their savings, inflation eroding the standard of living, and paying for health and care costs.

The Productivity Commission (Housing Decisions of Older Australians, December 2015) also found that some Australians have poor knowledge about key aspects of retirement decisions, such as expected longevity, the likelihood and cost of going into residential aged care, and the operation of government policies. There is also a reluctance to engage financial and other specialist advice or even speak to family members to inform decisions

Where do older people seek advice on funding aged care costs?

Source: Productivity Commission (Housing Decisions of Older Australians, Commission survey, December 2015).

Data and insight into the Australian population's intentions and/or actions regarding preparing for the future are crucial to understanding the shifting landscape of the Australian population and relevant resources and assistance for older Australians.

Key themes for this topic may include:

- Prevalence of future planning documents in place (Will, Enduring Power of Attorney, Trusts (incl. charitable), Advanced Care Directives, Organ Donation, funeral plan, etc.)
 - o What documents have been prepared?
 - o What are Australians actively doing to protect their legacy?
- Who would make decisions for you when you can't (partner/spouse, adult children, family member, independent third party, etc.)

- Care preference in later life (home care, aged care facility, etc.)
 - o Do Australians prefer to be cared from in their home or at an aged care facility?

0

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

Accountant/financial

planner

Family Aged care provider Seniors' group

Per cent

60–64

65–69

70–74

75–79

80+

60

65

70

75

80

85

Per cent

'None of the above'

6

- Intended age of retirement

- o Are Australians intending on working past the Government specified retirement age?

- o Plans for semi-retirement

- Intended way to fund retirement (e.g. superannuation, aged care pension, family support, etc.)

- o Are Australians planning on seeking income support from the Aged Care Pension?

- o Do Australians think they will have enough superannuation to fully support themselves during retirement?

- Intention of providing early distribution of inheritance or gift of financial support to a family member

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The ageing Australian population is of current national importance, as it underpins many areas of policy development, planning and program monitoring.

The Australian Law Reform Commission published their second consultation paper on the Elder Abuse Inquiry

(December 2016). One of the recommendations was for a national Power of Attorney register (Proposal 5-1 of the

Australian Law Reform Commission (Elder Abuse),

<https://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/registration-enduringdocuments>).

In light of the current national policy focus on elder abuse, recently, the Commonwealth Government committed to

developing a National Plan on Elder Abuse, in addition to it committing to work with the states and territories to develop

a national online register for enduring powers of attorney.

The significant interest of the Commonwealth Government in the area of elder abuse has resulted in funding to OPA Vic,

on behalf of the Australian Guardianship and Administration Council to undertake a national project on enduring powers

of attorney funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.¹

The project is developing a national best

practice resource for enduring appointments which will provide practical national guidance on the use of enduring

documents. The focus of the resource is on their usage in avoiding elder abuse. A discussion paper about enduring

appointment laws and practices throughout Australia, focussing on enduring appointments with financial

responsibilities, is also being developed. The paper will inform possible future developments of generic forms and a

model law for enduring appointments. The paper is being prepared in conjunction with the 'Protecting the Rights of

Older Australians' Working Group, for referral to the Council of Attorneys-General.

The Productivity Commission (Housing Decisions of Older Australians, December 2015) found that older Australians

prefer to stay in their own home and receive community care/in home care services. The Australian Government has

been increasing the provision of home care services, with about 800 000 older Australians receiving some form of home

care, while reducing the number of new residential aged care places. The introduction of 'consumer directed care' gives

consumers greater choice and flexibility in addressing their home care needs (Productivity Commission: Housing Decisions of Older Australians, December 2015). Census data on the Australian population's future planning needs, gaps and/or intentions, would be used to support policy development and service provisions to the ageing population, ensuring there is adequate resources and community education available prior to Australians experiencing a crisis or experiencing vulnerability.

1 The Australian Guardianship and Administration Council is made up of all the state-based Offices of the Public Advocates or Public Guardians (the names vary depending on the individual state or territory) all the state (or public) trustees and the various state-based civil tribunals that have the power under state-based Guardianship and Administration legislation to make administration (financial and legal affairs) or guardianship (major lifestyle decisions) orders for adults with cognitive disability, who lack the capacity to make their own decisions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

As the Australian population ages, the identification of their future planning assists Government and agencies to understand the likely demand on their services (e.g. aged care funding and community care services, participation in the paid workforce). In addition, the educational requirements of informing and raising awareness amongst the entire adult Australian population (including regional areas and culturally diverse groups) to assist in forward planning and giving Australians an opportunity to make informed choices prior to a crisis or becoming vulnerable. Monitoring socio-economic demographics provides deeper insights into unknown sectors of the Australian population on important future planning documents.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is likely to be understood by Census respondents. Respondents will be able to easily answer questions to this topic in a simple “Yes/No” format, or prompted multiple choice options of what future planning activities they have completed or intend to complete.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The topic is non-intrusive or controversial. It could potentially create or support conversations amongst household members, or other family members, around individual future planning and thinking ahead. The conversations that accompany making any legal documents and advance care plans are critical to ensuring a person’s end of life choices, and decisions, are

respected. Some Australians are cognisant of preparing for the future (e.g. superannuation, enduring powers of attorney, retirement plans, insurance policies, Will ownership). However, these administrative activities are typically left until Australians are in need of assistance, rather than in preparation for the future.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The topic can be easily collected with a low number of additional questions and answer options.

Many Australians understand the concept of planning for your future. A short instruction/explanation may be necessary; however this should not compromise the overall length or costs of the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Time series data on patterns of future planning initiation and completion is likely

to assist with National, State and Local government planning. Many Government Departments and agencies would benefit from tracking data to identify trends or shifts in the Australian population as we continue to age. For example, indication of reliance on the Age Pension and/or expected standard of living.

Future growth in retirement balances (e.g. superannuation) and intended retirement age has potential implications for the Australian Government outlay on the Age Pension. In 2013-14, around 70% of people of Age Pension age were receiving the Age Pension. Of these, 60% received the full-rate pension. It is anticipated that in the future, many Australian workers will retire with much larger superannuation balances. The proportion of part-rate pensioners relative to full-rate pensioners is expected to increase. However, one of the main financial concerns of older Australians is outliving their money, which leads them to not draw down on their superannuation balances, resulting in lower standards of living and significant transfers to beneficiaries. (Intergenerational Report, 2015)

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There is no single source of truth on the topic of ageing Australians and their future planning intentions/activities. Limited data is available via:

- Births, Deaths & Marriages data (limited data)
- ATO taxation data (limited data)
- Supreme Court Probate data
- Productivity Commission
- Government Department(s) and/or agencies (e.g. Treasury)

A recent Australian Research Council's linkage project (2013), investigated the national prevalence, patterns and practices of Will making in Australia. One of the findings of this multifaceted research was the lack of national data on the prevalence of Wills, intended beneficiaries, principles and practices surrounding will making and the patterns and outcomes of contestation. Most jurisdictions do not require mandatory registration of a power of attorney in

order for it to be valid, and as such, it is difficult to establish uptake of these instruments in Australia.

A coordinated approach to data collection and presentation would be of great benefit to governments, relevant organisations and agencies, and indeed all people with an interest in future planning intentions/activities.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 526167014

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Charles Darwin University, Northern Institute

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Identification of the non-heterosexual population

In Australia the non-heterosexual population was subject to increased attention during the public debate about same-sex marriage and the activity and subsequent legislative response to the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey. With the passing of amendments to the Marriage Act to recognise marriage between same sex couples, significant social progress has been made. However the accurate identification of the non-heterosexual population for the purpose of population estimates and demographic characteristics remains outstanding.

Better demographic evidence could highlight where disadvantage and discrimination remain, and population estimates would assist in the planning of appropriate health, social, justice and workforce services.

A direct question on sexual identity will lead to the highest quality population counts of the non-heterosexual population. Because the Census covers the entire population, it is the only data source with the opportunity to accurately count the sub populations which make up the non-heterosexual community. A question allowing identification of gay or lesbians; people who are bisexual; and

people who identify as another sexualities which they can specify, would allow the production of counts of not just the community as a whole, but also other populations within the broader non-heterosexual community.

We acknowledge that there are sensitivities around the collection of information on sexual identity. The better identification of same-sex relationships however, could also assist in producing higher quality spatial estimates of the population. Total non-heterosexual population estimates are currently based on survey data (General Social Survey, Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia, Australian Study of Health and Relationships) but state/territory distributions have been attempted based on same-sex couple identification using Census data (Wilson & Shalley, 2018).

Currently ABS produces estimates of same-sex couple relationships from Census data which combines information from two census questions. However there are a number of limitations including: general issues of Census undercount; no identification of the relationship if neither is person 1; no identification of individuals who are single; no identification of individuals who are in living-apart-together relationships.

The ONS 2011 Household Census Questionnaire allowed for the explicit identification of same-sex couples in questions about how people within a household are related to person 1. Individual person based questions also asked about legal marital and same-sex partnership status. Minor change to the Australian Census form could allow for same.

The inclusion of appropriate questions about the non-heterosexual community will help to further legitimise identification and help to continue an easing of prejudice and discrimination, as well as improving under enumeration.

This submission is requesting at the very least improved identification of same-sex relationships. This provides a stepping stone to a more comprehensive enumeration of the non-heterosexual population. The addition of a more detailed question on sexual identity would allow for a comprehensive population count and data to be disaggregated into the sub population groups of which there is very limited population information.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☐ Sex and gender

- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Identification of sexual identity/orientation is very uncommon in datasets in Australia – especially those employing population samples (Wooden, 2014). There is dearth of high quality evidence on inequality in socio-economic outcomes that arise from sexual orientation.

Information on the non-heterosexual population is needed across many areas of policy and research:

- Family formations – a significant number of same sex couples have children
- Health disparities – measures of mental and physical health differ between heterosexual people and non-heterosexual people
- Business operations – human resource needs (including supporting

workplace diversity), LGBT+ markets

- Employment and earnings – appropriate employment policies, anti-discrimination processes etc

- Justice – discrimination and hate crimes directed at the non-heterosexual community

- Youth and education – pressures, prejudices at school, from peers, relative rates of risk behaviours etc

Without good quality data about the non-heterosexual population there is a risk of falling back on stereotypes, myths about the experiences and the social circumstances of non-heterosexual people (Gates, 2010 LGBT Demographics: Comparisons among population-based surveys).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The non-heterosexual population is relatively small and requires large samples to ensure a sufficient size to underpin meaningful investigation/analysis. Recent estimates of the population size suggest it makes up about 3.2% of the Australian adult population (aged 18 years and over), however prevalence varies considerably by age, sex and spatial distribution. Data from the 2014 GSS and investigation of HILDA data by Wooden (2014) also suggests differential health and well-being outcomes for sub-population groups within the non-heterosexual community on a range of indicators including overall health, and mental health in particular, income levels and experiences of homelessness. A whole of Australia data source is required for an accurate count of these sub populations and their spatial distribution so that services can be appropriately targeted.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Census would provide the opportunity for identification with the acknowledgement that it will only be an estimate of the population willing to reveal itself. A simple question on sexual identity has already been included in ABS surveys, and there are overseas examples pointing to effective ways to better identify same-sex relationships and marital status.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

We believe the positive result of the Australia Marriage Law Survey shows the Australian population is generally supportive of this minority population and we expect them to be receptive to Census questions associated with the identification of non-heterosexual peoples. However we acknowledge that sensitivities remain, particularly amongst some religious groups and in highly conservative rural areas.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As mentioned previously, questions associated with same-sex partnering and unions have been included on the ONS UK Census. There are also other examples (US, Canada, NZ). A question on sexual identity has been included in the ABS 2014 General Social Survey however it was only asked of respondents aged 18 years and over - "Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself? 1. Straight (Heterosexual); 2. Gay or Lesbian; 3. Bisexual; 4. Other; 5. Don't Know". The addition of answer categories allowing people to provide "unsure" (sexual identity can be fluid) or "prefer not to answer" (sexual identity remains a sensitive topic for some) may improve responses.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The non-heterosexual population will remain and thus data supporting high quality population counts must continue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are few additional nationally representative sources of data on sexual identity, apart from those mentioned previously. Survey data have significant limitations because of the relative size of the broader population and sub population groups. The spatial distribution and variations across age and gender are important to better quality population estimates.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

References:

T. Wilson and F. Shalley (2018) Estimates of Australia's non-heterosexual population, Australian Population Studies, Vol 2. No. 1
<http://www.australianpopulationstudies.org/index.php/aps/article/view/23>

M. Wooden (2014) The Measurement of Sexual Identity in Wave 12 of the

HILDA Survey (and associations with mental health and earnings), HILDA Project Discussion Papers Series No. 1/14, Feb 2014, The University of Melbourne, Faculty of Business and Economic.

<https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/assets/documents/hilda-bibliography/hilda-discussion-papers/hdps114.pdf>

G. Gates (2010) LGBT Demographics: Comparisons among population based surveys, The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0kr784fx>

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 818603618

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This is one of several submissions made on behalf of this agency.

The focus of this submission is information that is collected to create the journey-to-work data.

This submission recommends that

- Journey to work data is available for smaller geographic areas in regional areas of NSW.
- Journey to work is expanded to also collect information on the journey to education.

- Journey to work data includes a question of how long it takes to travel to work or school.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Information about the journey to work is used extensively in NSW for service delivery and infrastructure planning. It is also used to inform strategy development, such as the recently published Greater Sydney Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities (<https://www.greater.sydney/metropolis-of-three-cities>). It is built on "... built on a vision of three cities where most residents live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places".

The evidence about commuter patterns for education is sparse, making public transport planning for students a challenge.

While detailed information is available from the census about the commuting patterns of people to their job, there is a lack of comprehensive information about the travel patterns of children to school, or of young people and other adults to post-school education.

However, the impact of travel patterns for education is considerable, and is most noticeable during school holidays when commuter volumes are noticeably smaller. The following article discusses this observation in Melbourne <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/how-the-school-holidays-change-the-way-we-travel-20161219-gtdzz6.html>.

An understanding of their travel patterns and the mode(s) they use to get to and from home will assist in planning of public transport around significant education sites, management of traffic flows and providing for the health and safety of children while in transit.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Travel times are also a crucial factor for people living in regional areas, but the geographic scale of data available from the census does not allow for detailed analysis of patterns linking regional centres, towns and rural areas.

A recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald wrote about the considerable distance that some children travel to school each day -

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/the-sydney-students-travelling-phenomenal-distances-to-get-to-school-every-day-20180403-p4z7lo.html>

While some information is available to trips to school from the NSW household travel survey, the sample is small and it is also geographically confined to Sydney, the Illawarra and Hunter regions. So, little is known about the commuting patterns of children in regional areas of NSW.

Another important consideration is not only the distance that people travel to work (or school) but also the time that this trip takes – this is explicitly stated in the Greater Sydney Region Plan (see criteria 1). People's perceptions about how far they will travel to work differs throughout the state and will affect the trade-offs they make about where they live and where they work

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Questions are already asked about the address of a person's place of work and the methods used to get to work on Census day. Similar questions could be asked of the address of any education institution attended on Census day. Consideration should also be given to asking a similar question of school children under 15. This question would also have to include a response option of home-schooling or studying at home.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I do not believe that this question would be considered intrusive.

Many stakeholders that this agency deals with have asked why this information could not be collected by the census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

A similar process could be used as currently undertaken for the collection, and processing of journey to work information.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

People will continue to travel for education purposes; transport planners will continue to plan for the demand of these trips on the road and public transport networks.

Time series data will allow the state government to see to what extent its strategic goals, such as those set out in the Greater Sydney Region Plan, and the NSW Transport masterplan are being achieved.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While some education-related trip data is collected by the NSW Household Travel Survey, the geographic coverage is limited to the Sydney, Illawarra and Hunter regions. Even so, as it is a sample, the geographic scope of available data is limited.

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/performance-and-analytics/passenger-travel/surveys/household-travel-survey-hts>

Trip data is also available from the opal card, but will not identify part-time adult

students travelling for education purposes.

Neither sources provide information on the travel patterns of people in regional areas of NSW.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 868814433

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This is one of several submissions made on behalf of this agency.

The focus of this submission is the question on number of children ever born.

This submission recommends that the ABS

- retains the format of the question as used in the 2016 Census
- returns to asking the question every second census, so do not include in the census again until 2026

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data from the census on children ever born has been used extensively by researchers and policy makers to understand more about the socio-economic

correlates of fertility in Australia.

This census question is the only source of information about women who had their children while living overseas and who have subsequently immigrated to Australia.

This Census question is also the only readily available source to examine childlessness in Australia. The policy implications for this issue are as important, in the context of population ageing and declines in fertility since the baby boom-peak in the 1950s and 1960s.

A better understanding of fertility differentials will greatly help in the development of assumptions for population projections developed by Redacted text

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Conventional fertility analyses in Australia use births data is available from vital registrations and the perinatal data collections of Health Agencies throughout Australia. Collected for administrative and civil purposes, the shortcomings of both data sources are:

- they provide limited demographic information about mothers living in Australia
- no data is available for women who had their children while living overseas
- fertility patterns are only available for indigenous mothers. No data is available for women of other ethnic or social groups.
- This data does not readily allow us to look at cohort fertility across generations of women living in Australia.
- No information is available about the socio-demographic characteristics of all mothers living in Australia, including place of residence, country of birth, education, occupation and income.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A census question already exists for collecting this information

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This question has been asked, in various forms, since 1911.

At the 2016 Census the level of non-response to this question (excluding imputed persons) was 3.1 per cent (see <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2900.0~2016~Main%20Features~Item%20non-response~10036>)

Other census questions had higher levels of non-response in 2016, which suggests that the women are willing to answer this question.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The question wording, and data processing has already been established by the ABS.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There is an ongoing need for research and analysis about childbearing patterns in Australia. Childbearing levels have changed considerably over the last century and may continue to change in the future.

This question is the best source of data for all women currently living in Australia

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

To my knowledge this detailed information is not available from any other source.

Births data is available from vital registrations and the perinatal data collections of Health Agencies throughout Australia. The shortcoming with both data sources is that they are administrative data. They do not contain detailed socio-demographic information about the child, the mother or the family into which these children are born.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

This question is normally included in every second census, so is collected

every 10 years. This is sufficient to monitor changes in the fertility patterns in Australia and its socio-demographic correlates.

However administrative decisions made for the last two censuses has meant it was included in the previous 3 censuses.

To re-establish temporal consistency in the time series of data on the number of children ever born I recommend that the ABS reverts to the pattern of every second census as is the normal practice. This means not including it in the 2021 Census, but asking it again in 2026.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 882898427

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Include unanswered questions Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

This is one of several submissions made on behalf of this agency.

The focus of this submission is housing.

It is recommended that ABS considers collecting information about

- Granny flats in NSW
- Second home ownership
- People who live in more than one location

And that the ABS

- revisits the classification of the structure and types of dwellings

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

A key priority of the NSW premier is making homes more affordable (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/premiers-priorities/making-housing-more-affordable/>). So the NSW government wants to make sure that enough homes are built in the right places to meet the needs of a growing population.

To achieve this goal, we need to start by knowing how many homes we already have in NSW, and going forward how the housing stock is changing over time.

Housing data, along with information about the households living in them is used to monitor changing household size and living arrangements and the mix of housing stock, and the adequacy of housing in our local communities.

While housing data is available from a range of sources including the census, a number of policy-related questions remain unanswered.

Granny flats (or secondary self-contained dwellings) can be built on a lot of land where there is an existing house, without the need for a development application. <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/building-or-renovating/do-i-qualify-fast-track-approval/granny-flats> . As such there is no standard data source from local councils to monitor how many have been built in NSW, where they are located and the extent to which they are providing additional housing for the state's growing population. The question remains how many granny flats have been built in NSW in recent years and where are they located?

Regional development is a focus of both state and federal governments. This is centred on ways to boost regional economies to reverse the slowing population growth or in some cases population decline. Strategic responses include the provision of adequate land for residential and industrial expansion, plans for infrastructure provision, employment diversity and economic growth.

Focussing on future housing demand, some of the questions or challenges for planners include:

- Assessing the housing demand of non-resident populations. With changing work and employment arrangements, people may work and live in more than one location. The extent to which this is happening and how it impacts on the use of housing is unknown. The assumption that one dwelling was required for every household may no longer be a valid one – we may need more. This includes people who have a second property that they use as a holiday home and people who are part of the growing drive-in-drive-out and fly-in-fly-out workforces throughout Australia. There is no reliable count of the number of

private dwellings used as holiday homes – counts of tourist beds in hotels and motels may undercount the number of visitors to an area and underestimate the seasonal peak demands on local infrastructure.

- Information about the extent to which holiday homes may become a permanent residence when people retire and decide to relocate would be useful to assess future land requirements for housing. While the Census will not be able to provide this information, it will at least provide a current count of residences and a mechanism to monitor trends over time.
- There is anecdotal evidence in some parts of regional NSW that there is a lack of private rental accommodation for FIFO/DIDO workers and that they are also using up much of a towns hotel and motel accommodation. The inclusion of this question, alongside information on a person's place of usual residence and their place of work will provide a means to investigate this further.

Other issues of interest to planners in both regional metropolitan areas are:

- The number of children who live in another (private) residence when they attend school or post-school education. We already have a count of children in boarding schools and university colleges, but not those who have other living arrangements during the academic year.
- The number of children of separated families who live for part of the week in two different residences. It is possible that some of the single person households enumerated at the census are in fact a parent who shares joint custody of their children. It is possible that assessments of underutilisation of housing, using current census statistics, may be over-estimating this measure.

This information would also be useful for people modelling household and dwelling projections.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The census is the most readily accessible source of information about the stock of private dwellings in NSW. This data is required at both large and small geographic scales, for both state-wide and regional strategic planning and the implementation of these plans at the local community level. This information

would be required at local government level as critical to development of regional growth plans by the state government and local area plans by local government in NSW.

Combining information about the character of dwelling stock with the character of households living in them gives us detailed snapshots about the living arrangements of people in NSW and how this is evolving over time.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Granny flats

An additional housing type can be added to the information collected on dwelling structure.

Second dwellings

A question can be asked about whether people own a second home in Australia, that they live in at other times during the year.

Second place of residence

An additional question would need to ask a respondent if they live and/or work in another location for a significant period. Exactly what this period is (e.g. half of the week, 6 months of the year, or something in between) will need to be tested and established.

Additional useful information would be about the nature of the accommodation they live in, especially the tenure.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

This information can be asked of all census respondents, is not subjective nor will have problems with recall.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Granny flats

This information could be collected by adding an additional category to an existing question on the census questionnaire.

Some of this data could be considered for collection on a 10-year cycle

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Granny flats

There would be an ongoing need for this information about granny flats.

Second place of residence

with changing family and household dynamics and increasing mobility of the labour force this information is important for planning housing demand and infrastructure provision.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

We are not aware of any other sources from which this information can be obtained.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 261193319

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What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

To be eligible for government assistance, households need to have a low income and a low asset base. Low income households can be identified within the Census, but at present there is no way of knowing whether these households are likely to be eligible based on their assets. At present, “renting” is used as a proxy for low-asset households, however this excludes a large number of early homeowners (high debt, low assets), and may include households who own property but are renting by choice.

If we had some basic way of identifying the level of assets of a households (even in broad ranges), this would be useful. Eligibility of asset-value differs,

but as long as the lower levels were covered well (e.g. <\$50k, \$50k-\$100k.... up to \$300k) that would be sufficient. Another way of assisting in this area, would be to determine how much mortgage is remaining on the property.

This information is required to estimate the likely demand for government support and services across a number of different cohorts, for example:

- Indigenous households;
- Seniors households;
- One parent households;
- Disability/Carer households etc.

It would be used in planning, policy design and evaluation. It would also be used for service design, mapping and planning for infrastructure around government assets and infrastructure.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Information on the asset base of a household is important for the development of government policy in: housing; seniors; disability; child protection etc. It is critical for service location planning across all government services. Examples include the placement of financial planning services; legal aid, emergency relief, food relief, crisis accommodation etc. Finally, it will assist government (at all levels) to identify, at a small area level, where its target populations are (for example; those eligible for health care cards, commonwealth rent assistance etc.). It can also highlight segments of the population who are eligible, but are yet to apply (for example households eligible for public housing who are not on the waiting list).

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Government planning for infrastructure is done at a regional or local. This allows a good balance between data quality and robustness, and sufficient granularity for local area decision making. For mapping government services, postcodes or even suburbs may be used. These are more useful when being overlayed with roads, schools and other infrastructure.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

If the questions are broad and the results are collected in ranges, this should be simple enough to collect.

For example:

What would the asset base of this household be?

(Include equity in your home, investment properties, shares etc.).

Only include superannuation if a household member is over 65 years old.

Or

What mortgage remains on this property (exclude investment property or other mortgages)?

- Under \$100k
- \$100k-\$199k
- \$200k-\$299k
- \$300k-\$399k
- \$400k-\$499k
- \$500k+

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

If the assets or remaining mortgage was collected in ranges, with \$300k+ as the highest range (assets) or \$500k remaining being the highest range for mortgage remaining, I don't think people would find this intrusive.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

If the data is collected in ranges it should be simple to code and quality assure. It is a household variable, so only one response per dwelling. It would not add a significant cost to the collection or processing of the Census.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The government will always need information for policy and planning for its low-socio economic target population. It will also be of interest to determine the impact of policy over time; where to open and close existing Government service hubs; and, where to plan for additional infrastructure to ensure continuing government support and services to those that need it the most.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

As small area data is required for planning and mapping of government services. There is no alternative data source available. The Census is such a rich source of data for housing information, the collection of assets and/or remaining mortgage would complete the set of variables required for highly accurate government planning. The result would be that even more value is obtained by government from the high level of investment in the Census collection.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

I am certain there will be more support on this topic from other government departments. I sent this around to the other Housing Departments in other States, but I didn't have the right contact is policy, planning and service design. The staff I managed to speak to didn't really understand the kind of planning and analysis that is being undertaken within the Western Australian Government.

A good example is the WA Department of Communities' (prev WA Housing Authority) Demand Model. This uses Census data to identify unmet demand for public and affordable housing at the Local Government Area level. I will attach the CODE Demand Model paper to this submission if possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss this submission. **Redacted text**



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 223299109

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Patriots Australia MMC

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Patriots Australia MMC

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Adding motorcycles to the census

Safer than cars

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Mode of travel to work

☒

Name and address of workplace attended

☒

Number of motor vehicles

☒

Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Motorcycles need to be added as a legitimate mode of transport

The statistics don't lie

There are less accidents involving motorcycles than any other form of transport on Australia's roads

More accidents involve cars and trucks on our roads and are statistically less safe than motorcycles

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Do you have any motorcycle riders living in your house

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

No considerations to any other groups

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

One simple question needed

Do you have any motorcycle riders living at your house

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Yes

More australians are learning to ride

It cuts down congestion on roads and take up less parking and are more economical and environmentally efficient



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 990983463

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Rationalist Society of Australia Inc.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The RSA would like to see the Religion question divided into two parts:

(a) Does the person currently practise a religion? Yes / no

(b) If yes, which religion? (and list the religions in order of prevalence).

Rationale

We know that most Australians who identify as religious in the census are infrequent attenders at religious institutions (churches, temples, mosques etc) and most could be reasonably labelled "culturally Christian" (or Muslim or Jewish etc) rather than practising. By "culturally Christian" we mean people who identify as Christian because their parents identified as Christian or because they correlate being a Christian with being a good person, not because they actively follow the doctrines, rites or the rituals of Christianity.

This is an important distinction because the purpose of the census statistics is to provide guidance to decision-makers about the provision of relevant services, allocation of resources etc. Because the current formatting of the Religion question fails to make this distinction, the number of practising

Christians (in particular) has been inflated, including as it does those who are merely "culturally Christian" in addition to those who are actually practising their faith.

To avoid this conflation and improve the reliability of the census statistics for its stated purposes, we recommend the Religion question be divided into two parts. The first part would ask if the person practises a religion. This is the most important indicator for the purpose of allocating resources and providing services. For those who confirm they are practising their faith, the second part then allows them to have recorded which faith.

To make it clear what is meant by "practising", a brief example could be used in the introduction to the question. For example: "By "practising", we mean if the person goes to church on a regular basis, or if the person actively lives their life according to the doctrines, rites and rituals of a particular religion."

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The data from the Religion question guides decision-makers on allocation of government resources, and provision of services, and the importance accorded religious groups by the general public and by governments.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data from the Religion question is needed from all parts of Australian society. It is enhanced by combining it with other characteristics, such as demographics and location data.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Our suggested amendments to the Religion question are simple and easily understood. They do not deviate much from the existing Religion question but have the benefit of improving the accuracy of the responses by distinguishing between respondents who are simply 'culturally' religious from those who are 'actively' religious. This distinction is important for public policy decisions.

As this distinction would be novel, it would be necessary to illustrate it but this would be relatively easily achieved.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The Religion question is not compulsory and would remain not compulsory.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The suggested amendment would split the Religion question into two parts and thus marginally increase the amount of processing. However with an increasing number of citizens completing the census online, this should not have a large effect on overall cost.

Indeed, because many respondents would answer in the negative to the first part of the suggested amended Religion question - ie, Does the person practise a religion? Answer: No - the second part of the question, listing many different religions, would not arise at all in the online version, reducing complexity.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The Religion question has been an integral part of the census for decades and is likely to remain so.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are other organisations that survey citizens' engagement with religions but none offer long time series or total coverage of the nation like the census.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

The Rationalist Society of Australia supports a secular, pluralist form of government and nation as the best way a multicultural, multi-ethnic society can achieve and maintain social cohesion. A truly secular nation allows for freedom of religion and belief, and freedom to manifest religion and belief within well known and recognised limits - eg, doing no harm. Institutionalised religions have a place within such a secular society but no more nor no less than their actual numbers within that society justify. We urge that those numbers be more accurately gathered by amending the format of the Religion question as we recommend.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 320331172

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Methods of transport and commuting. motor vehicle ownership

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The lack of recognition of motorcycles and scooters as a viable transport method that is both environmentally friendly and reduces congestion is concerning. They lack of data will impact the vast number of users of these vehicles and ad such they deserved to be recognised as a legitimate user group in their own right.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

motorcycle use is increasing and will continue to increase as the cost of fuel, public transport and parking continue to spiral. The low cost of motorcycles and scooters for their purchase and overal running costs will see more and more people use them as a viable and cost effective transport. This is very relevant as data now and into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No. If that was the case then cars, buses, trains and bicycles etc would also be assessed in this manner



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 374224671

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Atheist Foundation of Australia Inc.

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

Plain Reason

Atheism SA

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The AFA contends that Question 19 of the 2016 Census that read "What is the

person's religion?" be broken into two parts: "Does the person have a religion? Yes|No" and "What is the person's religion?"

Whilst the 2016 Census brought the "no religion" option to the top of the possible answers, the structure of the question is still leading in nature, presuming that the person has a religion in the first instance before giving the person the opportunity to specify that they in fact do not have a religion.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Current anomalies in the data affects policy decisions and have broad ramifications in relation to social legislation (both state and federal) which are influenced by perceptions of religious affiliation and adherence. Issues affected include planning applications for the development of religious facilities and accompanying traffic considerations. Issues of funding and taxation also become distorted.

The current bias in the question favours religion and its attendant influence on the Australian political process. One example is the degree of access religious bodies have to government funded education facilities and the government policies which facilitate this access. Religious lobby groups base many of their submissions on ABS data relating to religious affiliation.

Accurate census data reflecting the actual proportion of the population practicing particular religious beliefs is required to ensure the equitable distribution of substantial government funds among both religious organisations on the one hand, and public secular resources and services of broad community benefit on the other hand.

-Courtesy of Atheism SA

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

There is a need to organise and provide information and events at the community level -- as well as at state and national levels -- to facilitate services and support to secular charities and community organisations. The opportunities and forums for harnessing the efforts of such secular individuals,

to the benefit of the broader community, are currently limited (especially when compared with religious forums, which receive the vast majority of government support). We often speak with socially-minded individuals who are reluctant to have their community work ascribed to a particular religion in which they do not believe. Improved statistics for the number of non-religious people in the country will help us, and others, to develop programs to actualise such individuals to the benefit of the broader community.

-Courtesy of Atheism SA

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

A single yes or no answer to the proposed question, "Does the person have a religion?" or "Does the person practice a religion?" make answering it inherently easy. A person does not need to consider the text of the question in any detail as it is only a small alteration from the previous question used and in fact makes it quicker to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The current question on religion is already optional and leaving it as such would not change the intrusiveness of the question.

Breaking the question into two parts is most likely to lead to more accurate results as it will cause a person answering it to consider first whether they have a religion or not.

In the 2011 Census 22.3 percent claimed 'no religion' and in the 2016 Census 30.1 percent claimed the same. Anecdotal evidence indicates that Australia is increasing secular, but many people still feel compelled to accede to the ABS request for a 'religion' when they have 'lapsed' long ago, or they take a rebellious option and give contrived answers in 'Other - please specify'.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

By creating an initial Boolean question, "Does the person have/practice a religion?" no extensive procession will be required as the options will be either Yes or No and collected either by a shaded bubble on a paper form or via a radio box in a webform. This means there is no free form text response that would need to be processed and coded.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Religion remains a continuous aspect of many Australian's lives and as such data will continue to be required about the number of people that practice religions or who don't.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

This data is unavailable through any other source beyond polls that may be conducted via polling agencies. This data has the associated issues of potentially being biased by the commissioning organisation. As such, the Census run by the ABS is the only appropriate place to obtain this data in an unbiased fashion.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 323844313

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

Non-government organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Australia's Right to Food Coalition

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Australia's Right to Food Coalition (RtFC) proposes the inclusion of three questions on household food security, to quantify the prevalence and severity of this pertinent public health issue. The one existing question provides an indication of the prevalence while the proposed additional two questions will provide insight into the continuum of experience of food insecurity. Understanding the severity of food insecurity will support targeted action to address the issue.

The wording for the three proposed and validated questions:

QUESTION 1

1a. In the past 12 months was there anytime when (you [or members of your household]) ran out of food and couldn't afford to buy more?

Response options:

Yes

No

1b. If yes how often did this happen?

a. Yes - Once or more a week

b. Yes- Once every 2 weeks

c. Yes- Once a month

d. Yes -Less than once a month

Response options:

A or B or C or D

1c. If yes, when this happened, did (you [or members of your household]) go without food?

Response options:

Yes

No

QUESTION 2

In the last 12 months, we worried whether our food would run out before we got any money to buy more.

Response options:

Often true

Sometimes true

Never true

QUESTION 3

In the last 12 months, the food we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more.

Response options:

Often true

Sometimes true

Never true

If only one question can be asked for the sake of space, then we recommend

QUESTION 1:

Q1

1a. In the past 12 months was there anytime when (you [or members of your household]) ran out of food and couldn't afford to buy more?

Response options:

Yes

No

1b. If yes how often did this happen?

a. Yes - Once or more a week

b. Yes- Once every 2 weeks

c. Yes- Once a month

d. Yes -Less than once a month

1c. If yes, when this happened, did (you [or members of your household]) go without food?

Response options:

Yes

No

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☒ Transport

☐

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

food security

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

- Food security, as defined by the FAO (2012), exists 'when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life'¹.
- This definition encompasses the four dimensions of food security; utilisation, availability, access and stability. The absence or disruption of any of these dimensions results in food insecurity.
- Food insecurity has negative implications across the lifespan which affect health (obesity, mental illness, malnutrition, chronic diseases) and social (homelessness, social isolation, childhood development, academic performance) outcomes.² These implications are associated with an economic and public system burden. For example, obesity alone contributes 7% of the total burden of disease in Australia³. In addition, the costs of food insecurity have been reported to be \$60 million per annum in Tasmania alone.⁴
- The Australian Health Survey data (2011-2012) revealed that 4% of our population were experiencing food insecurity, with 1.5% living in a household where someone went without food when they couldn't afford to buy more.⁵ However, further exploration has revealed prevalence is as high as 36% in recent national research.⁶
- Given that the influencing factors of obesity and food insecurity are similar,⁷ improved understanding of food insecurity and potential solutions may also

positively impact obesity prevalence.

- Accurate measurement of the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity in Australia is imperative to understand the magnitude of this public health problem, so policy interventions and strategic solutions are appropriately targeted and effective. Further, resulting policies to reduce the prevalence of food insecurity will be economically beneficial.⁸

1Food and Agriculture Organisation (2012). Coming to terms with technology. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/026/MD776E.pdf>

2 Ramsey et al. Food insecurity among adults residing in disadvantaged urban areas: Potential health and dietary consequences. Public Health Nutrition; 2012.

3Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2017). A picture of overweight and obesity in Australia in 2017. Cat. No. PHE 216. Canberra: AIHW.

4 Healthy Food Access Tasmania. Submission to Healthy Tasmania: 5 year strategic plan. 2016.

5Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013). Australian Health Survey, State and Territory Results 2011-2012.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/3A04B813D2132333CA257E5F0016080D/\\$File/australian%20health%20survey-%20nutrition%20-%20state%20and%20territory%20results.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/3A04B813D2132333CA257E5F0016080D/$File/australian%20health%20survey-%20nutrition%20-%20state%20and%20territory%20results.pdf)

6Butcher, L.M., O'Sullivan, T., Ryan, M.M., Lo, J., Devine, A. (2018). Using a multi-item questionnaire to assess household food security in Australia. Health Promotion Journal of Australia. Early View, 10.1002/hpja.61.

7 Innes-Hughes C, Bowers K, King L, Chapman K, Eden B. (2010). Food security: The what, how, why and where to of food security in NSW. Discussion Paper.

PANORG, Heart Foundation NSW and Cancer Council NSW : Sydney.

8Food And Agricultural Organisation Of The United Nations Household food security and community nutrition. FAO; 2010 Available from:

http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/nutrition/household_en.st

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

- The Australian Health Survey has included a single-item question on food security for a number of years, 'In the last 12 months was there any time you have run out of food and not been able to purchase more?'¹.
- While helpful, there are limitations to the data obtained from this question in isolation; as it fails to indicate the severity and temporality of the experience of food insecurity. Additionally, this question underestimates the prevalence of food insecurity by approximately 5 percentage points.²
- The inclusion of food security measurement in the Australian Census is imperative to understand the manifestation and severity of food insecurity amongst the population.
- Research has demonstrated food insecurity is more likely to affect specific population groups such as low and middle income groups (20-25%)³, university students (25%)⁴, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (24%)⁵, and refugees (70%)⁶. Further, people living in rural and remote locations are often at higher risk of food insecurity due to food availability, access issues.^{7,8}
- To date, much food security research has by and large been on the urban population and with small samples. Therefore, a nationally representative survey that includes questions to measure food security is vitally important, in order to improve understanding about how food insecurity impacts at risk population groups.
- Researchers and policy makers require greater insight into the affected population groups and the severity of food insecurity in order to design and implement effective solutions.

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics. National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NNPAS) in the Australian Health Survey 2011-13. 2014; Available from: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4364.0.55.007~2011-12~Main%20Features~Key%20Findings~1>

2 McKechnie, R., et al., Single-item measure of food insecurity use in National Health Survey may underestimate prevalence in Australia. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 2018 Online.

3 Nolan, M., et al., Food insecurity in three socially disadvantaged localities in Sydney, Australia. Health Promotion Journal of Australia, 2006. 17: p. 247-254

4 Roger, H., et al., Student food insecurity: The skeleton in the university closet. Nutrition & Dietetics, 2011. 68(1): p. 27-32.

5 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2008). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2008 Report, Detailed Analysis, Cat.

No. IHW 22.

6 Gallegos, D., P. Ellies, and J. Wright, Still there's no food! Food in a refugee population in Perth, Western Australia. *Nutrition & Dietetics*, 2008. 65: p. 78-83.

7Murray, S., Ahuja, KDK, Auckland, S., Ball, MJ. (2014). The 2014 Tasmanian Healthy Food Access Basket (FAB) Survey. School of Health Sciences, University of Tasmania.

8Godrich, S.L., Davies, C.R., Darby, J., Devine, A. (2017). What are the determinants of food security among regional and remote Western Australian children? *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*; 41; 2; 172-177.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

- The proposed questions are sufficient for self-completion in the household, as food security questions have been demonstrated to be appropriate in self-administered surveys.¹
- The topic of food security can be collected using these simple questions, with little time required to complete the questions.
- The question wording relates to running out of food, which is likely to be understood by participants.

¹Lee, J.S, Jonhson, M.A., Brown, A., Nord, M. (2010). Measuring Food Security Using a Self-Administered Mail Survey Method among Older Georgians Requesting Older Americans Act Nutrition Program: Georgia Advanced Performance Outcomes Measures Project. *The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology*; 24;1.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

- The proposed food security questions are anticipated to be acceptable, given they are brief.
- Respondents in previous research have participated in surveys enquiring about food security.
- This question has been used in previous Australian surveys, to our knowledge, without incident.¹

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics. National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NNPAS) in the Australian Health Survey 2011-13. 2014; Available from: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4364.0.55.007~2011-12~Main%20Features~Key%20Findings~1>

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

As the questions are short, and respondents will be able to read and answer the questions quickly, it will not add significantly to respondent burden or the cost of the Census.

As the proposed questions have only dichotomous responses, it is anticipated that these will not present difficulties in coding or interpreting the data collected.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Food prices have risen by about 20% between 2003 and 2010 and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food and alcoholic beverages increased by 2.5% in 2012-2013, and 1.9% in 2017-2018, the total CPI remained 0.4% for both periods. This suggests price pressure will continue in the future and policy makers will require data on the impact.

Furthermore the Australian burden of disease has moved from the communicable diseases of the past, to chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and chronic conditions like poor mental health. Food insecure adults are more likely to report back pain, mood/anxiety disorders and have multiple chronic conditions compared to food secure populations. In children experiencing food insecurity, there is evidence of lower fruit and vegetable consumption when compared with food-secure children, and increased risk of truancy from school and developmental delays. There are strong associations between food insecurity and poor adherence to treatment recommendations and care in chronic conditions. In summary, food insecurity is a modifiable risk factor for chronic disease and monitoring over time is essential to identify new vulnerable populations and assess the effects of policy decisions.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

While information about food insecurity was collected in the Australian Health Survey (2011-12) and Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (2012–13), the 2021 census will enable the data to be captured again a decade after the 2011-13 round, and more than two decades since the 1995 National Nutrition Survey.

In addition, the Census data can be linked to mortality records, which provides much more accurate estimates of prevalence and severity in populations known to be at higher risk such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, the socioeconomically disadvantaged and people experiencing homelessness.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 460310356

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Motorcycles and why they should be included in the census.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Anything motorcycle specific

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

I would suggest that motorcycle info and statistics, question are all of motorcycles in the census. Doin that would give important information on future transfrer plans.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

there is a need for time series data on the topic of motorcycles
The motorcyclet opic is likely to remain relevant in the future, as the registration numbers on motorcycles and sheets are continuing to increase.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 414591787

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I will be requesting that under the topic of Religion, all Christian religions be combined as one, under one heading called Christian.
I will also be requesting that another option called Judaism be included under Religion.
I will also be requesting that the option called Christian will be first listed.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

1. Under the topic of Religion, include one option called Christian and remove Catholic, Anglican (Church of England), Uniting Church, Presbyterian, Greek Orthodox and Baptist as they are all Christian based religions.

As there are many other Christian religions, this would provide a more inclusive and accurate representation of Christians in Australia. In the 2016 Census those who identified as, for example Pentecostal Christians, would have no

choice than to select 'Other Religion' creating a false representation of Christianity in Australia.

2. Under the topic of Religion, list Christian as the first option as Australia has historically been recognised firstly as a Christian country.

3. Under the topic of Religion, include an option called Judaism as an inclusive option.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

1. Under the topic of Religion, include one option called Christian and remove Catholic, Anglican (Church of England), Uniting Church, Presbyterian, Greek Orthodox and Baptist as they are all Christian based religions.

As there are many other Christian religions, this would provide a more inclusive and accurate representation of Christians in Australia. In the 2016 Census those who identified as, for example Pentecostal Christians, would have no choice than to select 'Other Religion' creating a false representation of Christianity in Australia.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

1. Under the topic of Religion, include one option called Christian and remove Catholic, Anglican (Church of England), Uniting Church, Presbyterian, Greek Orthodox and Baptist as they are all Christian based religions.
As there are many other Christian religions, this would provide a more inclusive and accurate representation of Christians in Australia. In the 2016 Census those who identified as, for example Pentecostal Christians, would have no choice than to select 'Other Religion' creating a false representation of Christianity in Australia.
2. Under the topic of Religion, list Christian as the first option as Australia has historically been recognised firstly as a Christian country.
3. Under the topic of Religion, include an option called Judaism as an inclusive option.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

1. Under the topic of Religion, include an option called Judaism as an inclusive option.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 310891162

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Census information about motorcycle usage in Australia needs to be included so that road planning etc. can effectively cater for motorcycles. Motorcyclists as a group have been ignored in planning for far too long.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Kilometres travelled. Any and all information gathered about other motor vehicle usage should also be gathered for motorcycles.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 923576661

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The religion question should ask, "Does the person practice a religion?"

The current question assumes people do, when many people don't.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data is used in planning, policy, legislation, and the operation of government.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

N/a. Adjustment to the current question to make it more fair and less biased.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Much quicker to answer.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

It takes into consideration people who don't know what they believe, and avoids philosophical questions beyond the scope of the census.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Simple, no cost.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Very relevant. Long overdue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No alternative data sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1023360018

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Motorcycle Riders Association of South Australia Inc

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Motorcycling is a significant transportation method yet no questions were asked regarding this method in the last census

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☐ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Planning for future transport needs must include motorcycling given that 17% of the population hold a motorcycle licence

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

a national and local transportation model can only be effectively developed if all transportation methods are included in surveys. This omission must be corrected urgently for transport to be effective

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

questions on cars and cycles exist. All we need is to include motorcycles

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

omission of questions relating to motorcycles is offensive to riders hence it is imperative for these questions to be included4

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

the questions exist just add a category for motorcycles

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

motorcycling is an integral part of transport . Therefore we need to gather data on this transport method

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

No other group collects this data

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

A Comprehensive transport plan requires all transportation methods to be considered. Hence it is imperative motorcycling is included in any census

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 619287173

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

National Secular Lobby

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The current method of collecting information on religious affiliation is not rigorous enough to ensure the best possible accuracy of this data. The current question makes assumptions about respondents' religiosity. An additional qualifier question, "Does the person practise a religion?", would allow for more meaningful data collection.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Religious affiliation data directly influences the planning of social services and infrastructure, the distribution of public funding and the legislative decisions made on social issues, affecting all Australians.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Data on religious affiliation is relevant to many current and ongoing national social, economic and political issues. The movements in religious affiliation reported in the 2016 census indicate that this is an area of Australian society that is undergoing significant change; tracking these changes will assist in understanding how they may interact with other areas of social policy.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Religious affiliation is a standard topic in the census. The change proposed here would actually make it easier for respondents to provide information and for the ABS to categorise responses. A very simple qualifier question will, in many cases, negate the need for many to provide a more complicated response selection.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The change proposed here does not alter the meaning or intent of the question(s) in this area, so would be unlikely to cause a problem in this regard. The addition of a simple qualifier question would in many cases simplify the response process, so would probably be a welcome addition for many.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The additional qualifying question will be coded in a simple yes/no format, in exactly the same way as many other questions in the census are currently coded.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This data has been a part of the census since 1911 and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The census is the only means by which this data is reliably and consistently collected on a national basis.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

1. It is proposed to add an initial qualifying question to the section on religious affiliation to more accurately gather this data:

"Does the person practise a religion?"

This question would have a possible YES or NO response.

- If NO, go to the next question.
- If YES, select from the list of religions below.

2. Question 19 of the 2016 census reads: "What is the person's religion?". This is a closed and leading question that assumes the person has a religion. It discriminates against the large proportion of the population who are atheist or agnostic, and fails to accurately account for the many people who were brought up in a religious environment and who feel some sort of loyalty to that memory, but who have since lapsed and do not currently practice any religion.

The question as currently worded encourages responses that are not

consistent with maintaining data accuracy, namely "complying" with the request to name a religion by giving (a) nominating a religion the respondent was taught, but has never practiced, (b) referring to their "baptismal religion", or (c) concocting an answer for the "Other - please specify" field.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 237127403

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I am the President of the Council of Australian Humanist Societies (CAHS), the peak body of Australian Humanism. In my capacity as CAHS President I have been approached by humanists who are unhappy with the way Humanism was presented as a category of “other” religion in the religion question of the 2016 Census.

I am writing to raise these concerns with the ABS, and with two proposals to help make the Census more capable of accurately capturing data about Australia’s rapidly evolving society.

1: Humanism should not be provided as an example of religion in the religion question.

The religion question in the 2016 Census included a list of religions for people to indicate their affiliation. It also included an option of “other” for people to write their religion if their religion was not on the list. Some examples of other were provided: “LUTHERAN, SALVATION ARMY, JUDAISM, TAOISM, HUMANISM” Humanism is not a religion. The wording risked misdirecting people, and risked discouraging Humanists from describing themselves as Humanists if their beliefs were to be presented as religious. I have talked, in my capacity as President of CAHS, with humanists who were unhappy about this wording. What is Humanism?

Humanism is, in essence, a secular belief system focused on the ability of human beings to develop meaning, purpose and ethics in their lives without reliance on supernatural sources.

The International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) is the global umbrella body of the worldwide humanist movement. Its “minimum statement on Humanism” says:

“Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance that affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. Humanism stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. Humanism is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality.” See IHEU website at:

<https://iheu.org/humanism/what-is-humanism/>

The Amsterdam Declaration is a longer document describing which has been agreed upon by humanist societies around the world. It is available on the IHEU website. It says in part: (numbering from original document)

1. Humanism is ethical. It affirms the worth, dignity and autonomy of the individual and the right of every human being to the greatest possible freedom compatible with the rights of others. Humanists have a duty of care to all of humanity including future generations. Humanists believe that morality is an intrinsic part of human nature based on understanding and a concern for others, needing no external sanction.

2. Humanism is rational. It seeks to use science creatively, not destructively. Humanists believe that the solutions to the world's problems lie in human thought and action rather than divine intervention. Humanism advocates the application of the methods of science and free inquiry to the problems of human welfare. But Humanists also believe that the application of science and technology must be tempered by human values. Science gives us the means but human values must propose the ends.

...

5. Humanism is a response to the widespread demand for an alternative to dogmatic religion. The world's major religions claim to be based on revelations fixed for all time, and many seek to impose their world-views on all of humanity. Humanism recognises that reliable knowledge of the world and ourselves arises through a continuing process of observation, evaluation and revision. See the IHEU website at: <https://iheu.org/humanism/the-amsterdam-declaration/>

It should be very clear from these quotations that Humanism specifically rejects supernatural sources of knowledge and meaning. Many of its major documents, in part, define it against religion, as in the Amsterdam Declaration's "Humanism is a response to the widespread demand for an alternative to dogmatic religion." The IHEU's short statement on Humanism is even clearer about the non-religious status of Humanism – "Humanism is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality."

In this respect Humanism is clearly not a religion. This point is only emphasized when looking at the discussion of the meaning of religion provided by the ABS: 'Generally, a religion is regarded as a set of beliefs and practices, usually involving acknowledgment of a divine or higher being or power, by which people order the conduct of their lives both practically and in a moral sense.' See ABS website at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1266.0> It should be clear then that for the vast majority of Humanists, as evidenced by our own collectively agreed upon statements, Humanism is a secular belief system, not a religion. Including Humanism as an example of religion misrepresents Humanism. It also has the strong potential to discourage humanists from filling in the Census appropriately. On more than one occasion Humanists have expressed their disappointment to me that Humanism has been included as an example of religion.

Both in the interests of basic respect to Humanists and our beliefs, and in the interests of the Census being able to provide an accurate picture of the Australian population's beliefs, I strongly recommend that Humanism should not be presented as an example of a religion.

2: The Census needs a question or sub question directly addressing the 'Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation' broad group.

As the number of people describing themselves as not religious increases it makes sense to develop a separate question or sub question to analyze the range of beliefs they hold.

When the "no religion" group was at 5% or less it might have made sense to simply conglomerate them all as non-religious. But with that percentage at 30% and increasing it does not make any sense to treat those beliefs as an addendum to the religion question, rather than as a set of beliefs that strongly influence Australian society, and which need to be documented in their own right.

The existence of this group is referenced by the ABS itself where it refers to the sub category of 'Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation' broad group"

See ABS website at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1266.0>

Humanism is, in fact, an example of a subset of the 'Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation' broad group, rather than a subset of religion. The secular etc. broad group is only going to increase as a proportion of Australian society over time.

I therefore propose that a new question or sub question be introduced to allow people to identify as part of this broad group, and to have the option of specifying their particular beliefs. Just as people with a religion have the option of specifying their particular religion under the current religion question so too

should those with in conscience beliefs that are not religious, have the same option under the secular etc. category.

The question could then be something like:

Part A: "Do you have a religion? If no please proceed to part B. If yes please specify from the list of religions below or write in the name of your religion if it does not appear on the list.

Part B: If you do not have a religion do you have a personal guiding 'Secular Belief and/or Other Spiritual Belief and/or No Religious Affiliation?' If yes please specify from the list of beliefs below or write in the name of your belief system if it does not appear on the list. The list could include major options such as Humanism, Rationalism, Marxism, Spiritual but not Religious, etc.

I do not insist on the precise wording above, but simply offer it to help visualize a possible approach. Moving to develop such a question would not so much be a rejection of the current approach as it would be building on it. Now that so many people do not have religious beliefs it makes more sense to start surveying, and treating with equal seriousness, their non-religious beliefs.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The topic is of national importance as it focuses on the in conscience beliefs of a group of people, those without religious affiliation, who have been steadily increasing in Australian society.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census already provides information about people's religious affiliation. As the non-religious group steadily increases the Census risks becoming increasingly lopsided in its reporting of people's philosophy in life if it only

reports their religious ideas.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The topic is easily understandable focusing as it does on people's own beliefs. The first proposal in the topic is to help clarify the meaning of the religion question.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposed topic cannot be any more intrusive than asking people about their religious beliefs, which the Census already does.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Collecting the information will not require a large number of new or difficult to understand categories.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As religion and other thought systems develop and change their roles in Australian society there is and will be an ongoing relevance and interest in time series data on this topic.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no comparable data sources.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 806335872

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Ive always wondered why motorcycle use is specifically excluded from Census questions?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

motorcycle use

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

motorcycle use



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 602950700

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

None

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Collecting information on motorcycles (power two wheelers) in order to properly understand ownership and use, particularly for personal transport of a functional nature eg commuting, running errands, and business eg deliveries.

Ownership and time and type of use will give insights which would inform policy settings relating to transport and land use.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles



Other/unknown

If other please specify

Other = business purposes eg deliveries

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Power two wheelers are recognised not just as a means of recreation, but have significant utility for efficient transport of singles and couples, and for business, small deliveries. Food deliveries have exploded in recent time and increasingly smaller capacity motorcycles are used because they are not just cheap, they are highly efficient.

It is probably true to say that many motorcycle trips remove four wheel vehicles from the streets and from parking, reducing congestion, and of course emissions, with less damage to road infrastructure.

Understanding where PTW's are and how they are used, and changes in that use over time in response to either environmental changes eg congestion, the price of petrol etc, or government (at what ever level) policy initiatives would lead to better decisions regarding transport.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The critical data will be from adults in the workforce. Recreational riding is not much help, although accident data could prove useful with regard to preventative measures.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Collecting PTW data as to ownership location and use should be very straightforward

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I can think of no possible objections to collecting data on PTW ownership and use.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

I cannot see any complexity

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

This will remain relevant into the future.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

I am unaware of any alternative data sources.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

No furthe comment. Thanks for considering.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 802513414

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Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group



☒ Educational institution



☐ An individual



☐ Other

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

None

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Add motorcycles to the list

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It seems erroneous to omit motorcycles from the list of transport options presented.

I mostly commute by motorcycle, and wish to have the option to say that.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 37453646

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Rainbow Families Victoria

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Introducing Rainbow Families Victoria.

Rainbow Families Victoria aims to empower and support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, non-binary, intersex and queer parented families - including parents, carers, prospective parents and our children. We coordinate events, produce educational material and resources, provide training and professional development as well as advocate to local, state and federal governments on behalf of rainbow families. Established in 2006, we have a long history of demonstrated success in achieving law reforms to support our rainbow families communities and will continue our work into the future, including developing presentations and a kit to update rainbow families, and services, on the law as it pertains to their relationships, children and families.

Please refer to our response to Additional Comments for a detailed explanation of rainbow families in Victoria and our diverse family forms.

Our families are growing in number and visibility.

Our rainbow family community is rapidly growing but data collection is not keeping up with us!

In data provided by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, from 1 January 2018 to 21 March 2018 there were 54 births registered where couples are same sex. This includes five births pre-2010 where amendments were made to the birth record. Of these, four amendments were to add a parent, and one was for a change of name. In Victoria no data is collected on the sexuality of single mothers nor are trans, gender diverse or non-binary Victorians able to easily change their birth certificates so in some cases births may appear registered to opposite sex couples. The lack of accurate state data impacts on Rainbow Families Victoria's ability to advocate accurately for our diverse family forms when considering budget submissions to state government, when advocating for representation in early childhood, education or health services, when calling for rainbow families to be included in pre-natal and post-natal care of parents and carers and their children, among other significant areas of social policy.

The 2016 Census found that there are now just under 46,800 same-sex couples living together in Australia. Although an increase of 39% since the 2011 Census, Rainbow Families Victoria concurs with the ABS that this is a largely underreported number as it does not consider the sexuality or gender diversity of respondents as individuals in households or even parenting across more than one household, only as a 'same sex couple'. Of those who completed the census, 23,700 identified as a male same-sex couple and 23,000 as a female same-sex couple. A total of 15% of same sex couples indicated they were living in same-sex couple families with children – representing a total of 10,500 children and young people aged under 25.

Given the complexities of collecting statistics of sole LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary parents and carers, as well as co-parenting families over two or more households, we expect that number of children living in rainbow families to be significantly higher.

Rainbow Families Victoria surveyed our community via a short four question survey on their experiences of the Census 2016 and on their ideas about questions regarding sex, sexuality and gender and diverse family forms. In the five days prior to June 30, we received 13 responses, elements of which have been included throughout our submissions. We gratefully thank the respondents and their families for contributing their experiences and suggestions to our submissions.

Key Recommendations for Census 2021

1. Include separate questions on sex, sexuality and gender and allow for opt-in options to protect identity and address genuine privacy concerns.
2. Include a separate question on intersex status (in line with the submission by intersex Human Rights Australia)
3. Includes questions that allows for accurate data on diverse family forms to be better identified and explained.
4. Include or amend Topic questions that show understanding of and acknowledge that
 - non-female identifying people can give birth or may have given birth previously
 - more than two people can be in an intimate relationship
 - children can live across two or more homes within multiple parent family forms.
5. Consider the privacy concerns of the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities and the possible implications of data collection and storage especially in relation to the online form which recorded names and address as part of the Census 2016 and any possibilities that data collected by Topic could be linked to peoples address.

Rainbow Families Victoria would also like to suggest that:

- a) The Census 2021 clarifies the definition of marital status to allow for overseas 'same sex' marriages now being recognised by the Australian government.
- b) The ABS consider a new range of papers be released post-Census 2021 including diverse family forms and the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities and the intersections between other topics such as religion, cultural diversity and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people, for example.

In the words of one respondent "You can only serve your population well when you truly understand it" and it is in that spirit that we commend our submission to the ABS.

Yours sincerely
Rainbow Families Victoria
June 30, 2018.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Population

Choose one or more topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

☐ Che Name

☐ Che Date of birth or age

☐ Children ever born

☐ Other/don't know

If other please specify

For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to? and also the Census 2016 question asking if the respondent was "male, female or other "

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

...allow individuals to answer for themselves and to categorise themselves
Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Rainbow Families Victoria considers that our recommendation for a more accurate collection of data on the Population Topic to be of national importance, more specifically to the support of policy development, planning or program monitoring as well as for research purposes.

Rainbow Families Victoria does not consider asking only if someone if “male or female or other” to be an accurate, appropriate nor respectful question by which to ascertain the diversity of the Australian population in 2021. Please consider some of arguments made in our submission on the Sex and Gender Topics in relation to why questions on sex, sexuality and gender should be asked.

We respectfully agree with Intersex Human Rights Australia who recommend that the ABS remove intersex from questions about sex or gender, and asking a separate question about intersex status. In addition we recommend the IHRA submission to the ABS for consideration.

Further more, the Census 2016 asked “For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?”

Rainbow Families Victoria queries why the question does not allow for trans male, gender diverse or non-binary people to be able to respond. We consider the question out of date and out of touch with the reality of the lives and experiences of many members of rainbow families across Australia.

We have recently established a new group within our community organisation for Trans, Gender Diverse and Non-Binary Parents and Carers. Many of the group participants have given birth as either gender diverse or non-binary parents. There were no options for recording this experience in under the previous Census 2016 Topics or question within those Topics.

In addition some trans, gender diverse and non-binary people have previously given birth as someone who was identifying as female (please note that we apologise for the clunkiness of the terminology used here) so have previously been recorded as female in previous iterations of the census.

We would also like to draw the ABS attention to widely reported information in 2014 by a range of media outlets that Medicare data provided by the Department of Health indicated that 54 trans male persons had given birth across Australia. We suggest more consideration is given to the way in which the ABS collects accurate data on birth experiences.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/pregnant-men-new-statistics-reveal-men-have-given-birth-to-54-babies-in-australia/news-story/ed8a56f4b906d20a4093c82562173c8e>

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Rainbow Families Victoria acknowledges that the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities are possibility considered ‘small population groups’ by

the ABS definition.

We appreciate that our rainbow families make up an even smaller, but not inconsequential, population group within these communities.

However combined with our key recommendations and the data collected under both the Sex and Gender and the Households and Families Topics we believe a more accurate collection of data on diverse family forms could be collected.

Without data on who lives in and belongs to our rainbow families we are unable to provide population statistics when we advocate for inclusive early years education, or fertility advice for trans, gender diverse and non-binary people, or for local government's to run playgroups for new families or for appropriate pre and post natal support to be offered to all members of our diverse families, among other service provision gaps.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Rainbow Families Victoria believes our recommendations in regards to questions asked under the Population Topic will be easily understood by respondents, are simple and respondents for whom the question relates to will be able to answer it quickly and easily.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Rainbow Families Victoria believes people should be provided with the appropriate set of questions under the Population Topic that allow for accurate and relevant data to be collected about rainbow families and all diverse family forms nationally.

We do not believe that the recommendations or responses we have provided in our submission could be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial as they simply reflect the reality of people's lives, experiences and the diverse family forms they live in.

While we do believe that most respondents will be willing and able to answer accurately answer we do want the privacy of respondents and their families will be considered.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Rainbow Families Victoria have either raised several concerns or made a number of recommendations on the Population Topic in response to Assessment Criteria 1 to 4. We do not have significant expertise in statistics not survey design to foresee if our recommendations will require considerable coding or processing nor if additional costs will be incurred. We do suggest that for some of our concerns to be addressed there may need to be some explanation (say that trans male people can also give birth for example) or that there may need to be multiple response categories required.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Rainbow Families Victoria strongly believes that rainbow families are increasing in number across all Australian states and territories but that our current data collection processes are out of date and not reflective of the reality of the lives of many members of rainbow families.

Any improvement to the questions asked in the Population Topic that will start to correctly and accurately reflect diverse families forms as well as the sex, sexuality and gender, and intersex status, of the people living in and belonging to rainbow families will be of immense benefit to future generations of Australians.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Rainbow Families Victoria is unaware of any other nationwide collection of accurate data related to rainbow families nor diverse family forms. We do not believe there is any accurate data collected on a local, state or territory level.

Additional question under Topics in the census 2021 would be an excellent step towards collecting data that reflects the reality of rainbow families across Australia.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Introducing Rainbow Families

Rainbow Families Victoria defines rainbow families as including one, two, three, four or more LGBTIQ parents or carers who care and nurture the children in their family. Family forms can include, but are not limited to, step or blended families, separated families, children who are fostered, in permanent care or adopted, children conceived through assisted reproductive technology, children living across two or more primary homes as part of their parenting arrangement, families with donors and/or surrogates who helped create them, either through altruistic surrogacy in Victoria or through international surrogacy arrangements.

The complexities in our diverse rainbow family forms can be characterised in many ways and some examples are provided below:

There are many 'rainbow families' that are created through step or blended families, in which same-sex attracted single parents or couples are parenting with a former partner (or the same or opposite gender).

There are also families in which there are more than two parents actively involved in the day-to-day care of children from birth (as opposed to through

separation or divorce). These families are formed through 'co-parenting arrangements' in which known sperm donors take on a fathering role and co-parent with a lesbian couple or single woman. Many children who are parented by same-sex couples live across two households so as to spend time with their mother/s in one household and their father/s in another household.

Sole parents by choice are also becoming recognised as being more common. An Australian study (Work, Love, Play, see Power et al 2010) has suggested that there may be a large number of single mothers who identify as lesbian or bisexual. Many of these mothers conceive children when they are single and may or may not have a co-parenting arrangement with the donor or father of the child. In these circumstances, the donor/father will most likely not be listed in a child's birth certificate if they were conceived via artificial means (home-insemination, clinic-based insemination or IVF).

Children in some families may not be biologically related to each other (for example: where one child is born with a known donor and another with a clinic donor to two women in a relationship but listed as siblings on a birth certificate) or may have been conceived or born in different legal jurisdictions. Our rainbow families may include children raised in a rainbow family who were conceived differently from each other but are legal siblings (eg; one child raised with four co-parents over two homes - where one member of each co-parent relationship is biologically related to that child - and another child born through international surrogacy with a biological link to one parent in one home). There are many differing examples but central to all of our rainbow families are the children who live in them.

Some rainbow family forms began as what is perceived by external observers (support services, health and medical services, etc) to be heterosexual - after a child is born one parent may have transitioned so the family is now a same sex parented family or the family may include bisexual people as parents yet the family can be perceived as heterosexually parented by others.

In recent years (from around 2000 onward), gay and bisexual men in same sex relationships have begun using surrogacy services to form their families. Anecdotally we are aware some lesbian/bisexual same sex couples may also be accessing surrogacy but at the time of writing have no data. This is most often done offshore in settings where commercial surrogacy is legal, and in most but not all cases an anonymous egg donor is used. In Victoria altruistic surrogacy has been available since 2010 and we are aware that some gay/bi male couples have accessed this option as a way to create their families.

Many same-sex couples or same-sex attracted single parents become parent through fostering. While the option of becoming a foster parent is promoted to LGBT communities by some agencies, there is evidence that some LGBT people experience discrimination within the foster care system. In Victoria LGBTQ people as same sex couples were allowed to apply to adopt from September 2016, after having for many years been active as foster carers or carers of children on permanent care orders.

We respectfully recommend that the ABS undertake an extensive literature review of Australian research on diverse family forms within the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities to further inform the development of the Census 2021.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 963752725

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

As a motorcycle rider of nearly 45 years experience I have been extremely disappointed that information that could be very useful in informing decisions about motorcycle safety, usage, facilities, infrastructure and representation has been excluded from previous census data. Motorcycle riders are a significant group of road users and deserve a voice in decisions made by government and other bodies that directly or indirectly affect them. In the absence of any data, how can informed decisions be made?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles



Other/unknown

If other please specify

Frequency of use

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Data relating to motorcycle ownership and usage is important in providing accurate information when legislation is being drafted or reviewed. It is also vital information to support road safety policy development, planning of roads, parking and related infrastructure and in determining priorities in policy implementation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Motorcycle owners and riders represent a small, but significant, group within the total population as well as those classified as road users. Under the present

system if data collection, nothing is known about this group, including accurate numbers, their geographical and social distribution or their specific needs. When data about motorcycle ownership and usage is combined with other data about car users, especially when considering use to travel to and from work, a more complete picture can be developed and more realistic, balanced policies developed in response to this data set.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This is obviously a very simple and easy thing to collect. In the exact same way information is collected about how many cars are garaged at the census residence, the same can be applied to questions about motorcycle ownership, usage and frequency of use..

Do you own a motorcycle? Is a very simple easy to understand question. Do you use this vehicle as transport to and from work? Is also easy. How many motorcycles do you own and/or garage at your home or place of residence? Couldn't be simpler. How many times per week/month on average do you use a motorcycle for any purpose?

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Seriously! How could information about motorcycle ownership and usage be considered in any way offensive, intrusive or controversial? You can be certain that this previously disenfranchised group (through having this data excluded) will be more than willing to supply the data, especially if they know it will be used to develop sensible government policy, legislation and infrastructure .

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

It goes without saying that if you can efficiently collect information on other motor vehicles then motorcycle are equally simple and easy to code, classify and process.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Data relating to motorcycle ownership and usage patterns is most definitely needed on a continuing basis, just as data on motorcars is collected on an ongoing basis. Comparisons of data over time will reveal changing trends, increasing or decreasing needs and the balance between two and four wheeled ownership. As long as we have motor vehicles on roads this information will be relevant well into the future and in fact could help predict future trends and inform advanced planning.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

If you don't ask questions about motorcycle ownership and usage in the census where else can this data be gathered and used? Vehicle sales figures may inform part of this but will not cover older vehicles and will certainly not provide information about how the vehicle is used and the frequency or purpose of this usage.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 443032441

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Rainbow Families Victoria

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Introducing Rainbow Families Victoria.

Rainbow Families Victoria aims to empower and support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, non-binary, intersex and queer parented families - including parents, carers, prospective parents and our children. We coordinate events, produce educational material and resources, provide training and professional development as well as advocate to local, state and federal governments on behalf of rainbow families. Established in 2006, we have a long history of demonstrated success in achieving law reforms to support our rainbow families communities and will continue our work into the future, including developing presentations and a kit to update rainbow families, and services, on the law as it pertains to their relationships, children and families.

Please refer to our response to Additional Comments for a detailed explanation of rainbow families in Victoria and our diverse family forms.

Our families are growing in number and visibility.

Our rainbow family community is rapidly growing but data collection is not keeping up with us!

In data provided by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, from 1 January 2018 to 21 March 2018 there were 54 births registered where couples are same sex. This includes five births pre-2010 where amendments were made to the birth record. Of these, four amendments were to add a parent, and one was for a change of name. In Victoria no data is collected on the sexuality of single mothers nor are trans, gender diverse or non-binary Victorians able to easily change their birth certificates so in some cases births may appear registered to opposite sex couples. The lack of accurate state data impacts on Rainbow Families Victoria's ability to advocate accurately for our diverse family forms when considering budget submissions to state government, when advocating for representation in early childhood, education or health services, when calling for rainbow families to be included in pre-natal and post-natal care of parents and carers and their children, among other significant areas of social policy.

The 2016 Census found that there are now just under 46,800 same-sex couples living together in Australia. Although an increase of 39% since the 2011 Census, Rainbow Families Victoria concurs with the ABS that this is a largely underreported number as it does not consider the sexuality or gender diversity of respondents as individuals in households or even parenting across more than one household, only as a 'same sex couple'. Of those who completed the census, 23,700 identified as a male same-sex couple and 23,000 as a female same-sex couple. A total of 15% of same sex couples indicated they were living in same-sex couple families with children – representing a total of 10,500 children and young people aged under 25.

Given the complexities of collecting statistics of sole LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary parents and carers, as well as co-parenting families over two or more households, we expect that number of children living in rainbow families to be significantly higher.

Rainbow Families Victoria surveyed our community via a short four question survey on their experiences of the Census 2016 and on their ideas about questions regarding sex, sexuality and gender and diverse family forms. In the five days prior to June 30, we received 13 responses, elements of which have been included throughout our submissions. We gratefully thank the respondents and their families for contributing their experiences and suggestions to our submissions.

Key Recommendations for Census 2021

1. Include separate questions on sex, sexuality and gender and allow for opt-in options to protect identity and address genuine privacy concerns.
2. Include a separate question on intersex status (in line with the submission by intersex Human Rights Australia)
3. Includes questions that allows for accurate data on diverse family forms to be better identified and explained.
4. Include or amend Topic questions that show understanding of and acknowledge that
 - non-female identifying people can give birth or may have given birth previously
 - more than two people can be in an intimate relationship
 - children can live across two or more homes within multiple parent family forms.
5. Consider the privacy concerns of the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities and the possible implications of data collection and storage especially in relation to the online form which recorded names and address as part of the Census 2016 and any possibilities that data collected by Topic could be linked to peoples address.

Rainbow Families Victoria would also like to suggest that:

- a) The Census 2021 clarifies the definition of marital status to allow for overseas 'same sex' marriages now being recognised by the Australian government.
- b) The ABS consider a new range of papers be released post-Census 2021 including diverse family forms and the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities and the intersections between other topics such as religion, cultural diversity and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people, for example.

In the words of one respondent "You can only serve your population well when you truly understand it" and it is in that spirit that we commend our submission to the ABS.

Yours sincerely

Rainbow Families Victoria

June 30, 2018.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

"It is crucial that every single person filling out the census feels included in the

community and does not feel alienated or excluded in any way. This is such a strong message to send, has important impacts on health and well-being and benefits Australian society as a whole, because it builds social cohesion"

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Rainbow Families Victoria considers our recommendation for a more accurate collection of data on the Sex and Gender Topic to be of national importance, more specifically to the support of policy development, planning or program monitoring as well as for research purposes.

Rainbow Families Victoria recommends that the Census 2021:

1. Includes separate questions on sex, sexuality and gender and allow for opt-in options to protect identity and address genuine privacy concerns.
2. Includes a separate question on intersex status (in line with the submission by Intersex Human Rights Australia)

We do not have a specific suggestion on the structure of the questions however we do strongly believe that the lack of a specific question on sexuality renders some rainbow families invisible and as a result has a negative impact on both general public perception about diverse family forms and on the development of programs and services that address specific health, social or community needs of specific population groups.

"... equality is important and when filling in forms we shouldn't feel like we have to adjust and compromise to give an understanding answer"

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

The impact of limited questions and answer options in the census ultimately means that some rainbow family forms are perceived to be, and recorded as, heterosexual when in reality either one or more parents or carers may be bisexual, trans, gender diverse or non-binary. This means that health, legal, community and many other services related to family formation, families, children and young people (among others) are not either aware of, nor responsive to, diverse family forms and the people who live, work and play in their local communities.

The lack of appropriate questions also means that some members of the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities are unnecessarily 'forced' to answer questions under some Topics in ways that do not provide data that accurately illustrates our Australian population nor the many diverse

relationships or family forms within Australia.

"My partner and I are both bisexual, so this was not counted. I am also Trans, and didn't feel safe asking for a new form that would be saved to my address. This was also in relation to my religion which I also left undisclosed for safety. We were married in 2010 (not legally), and that is the language we use, cause we are married under religious law. For the census it was unclear as to what type of status we were to be. So I said that she was my wife, and we are married, and my wife said I am her partner and defacto."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Some respondents to our Census survey suggested that any questions on sex , sexuality or gender should be opt-in. We have included their comments for your consideration:

"I feel that sex and gender questions should be optional. They should allow for a full and inclusive recognition of sex and gender preferably through an open text approach particular to gender identity."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

"Asking the majority of Australians who do identify as cis (cisgender) fuels their concerns that we're being too PC. This should be opt-in only."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

In regards to the Census 2016 opt-in question on sex/gender diverse, Rainbow Families Victoria is concerned that the outcome was not an accurate reflection of the Australian population. While we appreciate that the option of the opt-in question was a genuine attempt to allow members of the trans, gender diverse and non-binary communities to self-identify, we believe the need for the extra log in code made it an onerous imposition and that the low respondent rate may also be because many people, especially those living outside major metropolitan areas where written material or information forums may have mentioned the opt-in option or who are socially isolated, were not aware of it.

Privacy is another huge consideration for members of these communities and as such the concerns about data security and matching data questions to people's home address must be considered in the lead up to the Census 2021.

"Having to get a special login because I'm trans was a pain. I believe it is important to get accurate numbers of our population so that the government can move medical provision for us into this century, but the majority of my

friends either boycotted the census or gave up because it was too hard, in fact I don't think I know a single one of my friends who even knew about the opt-in part."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

"I think it's really important because so many of the trans community have no faith that the government takes them seriously or wants to help them at all, instead of making them go to extra effort to register their gender properly so they can be counted, the Census should be made so that trans people feel like an actual part of the population. Not everyone in the trans population even knew about the opt-in for the gender question."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

"I feel if one is single they are automatically assumed heterosexual on paper and that's an unwelcome feeling"

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Rainbow Families Victoria acknowledges that the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities are possibility considered 'small population groups' by the ABS definition. We appreciate that our rainbow families make up an even smaller, but not inconsequential, population group within these communities.

However combined with our key recommendations and the data collected under both the Population and the Households and Families Topics we believe a more accurate collection of data on diverse family forms could be collected.

Without data on who lives in and belongs to our rainbow families we are unable to provide population statistics when we advocate for inclusive early years education, or fertility advice for trans, gender diverse and non-binary people, or

for local governments to run playgroups for new families, for sole parents to be provided information that is responsive to their sexuality or gender, or for appropriate pre and post natal support to be offered to all members of our diverse families, among other service provision gaps.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Rainbow Families Victoria believes our recommendations in regards to questions asked and included under the Sex and Gender Topic will be easily understood by respondents, are simple and respondents for whom the question relates to will be able to answer it quickly and easily.

We believe that adding a question on sexuality, optional or otherwise, would be simple and easily understood by respondents in a household living in 2021.

In addition a question on intersex status is long overdue and appropriate to be asked in 2021.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Rainbow Families Victoria believes people should be provided with the appropriate set of questions under the Sex and Gender Topic that allow for

accurate and relevant data to be collected about rainbow families and all diverse family forms nationally.

We do not believe that the recommendations or responses we have provided in our submission could be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial as they simply reflect the reality of people's lives, experiences and the diverse family forms they live in.

While we do believe that most respondents will be willing and able to answer accurately answer we do want the privacy of respondents and their families will be considered.

Asking a question about sexuality will also allow some relationships to be more accurately reflected especially when they do not live in the same house or geographical location, as reflected by some community members in our recent survey respondents:

"I have a long term partner but we live rurally in different towns and commute. Neither of us consider ourselves single just because we don't live in the same house full time. There was not box in the census we fitted into, and I wanted to be on record as a lesbian."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Rainbow Families Victoria have either raised several concerns or made a number of recommendations on the Sex and Gender Topic in response to Assessment Criteria 1 to 4. We do not have significant expertise in statistics not survey design to foresee if our recommendations will require considerable coding or processing nor if additional costs will be incurred. We do suggest that for some of our concerns to be addressed there may need to be some explanation (perhaps some direction on the definitions of sex, of sexuality, of

gender or of intersex) or that there may need to be multiple response categories required.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Rainbow Families Victoria strongly believes that rainbow families are increasing in number across all Australian states and territories but that our current data collection processes are out of date and not reflective of the reality of the lives of many members of rainbow families.

Any improvement to the questions asked in the Sex and Gender Topic that correctly and accurately reflect diverse families forms and the sex, sexuality and gender, as well as intersex status, of the people living in and belonging to rainbow families will be of immense benefit to future generations of Australians.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Rainbow Families Victoria is unaware of any other nationwide collection of accurate data related to rainbow families nor diverse family forms. We do not

believe there is any accurate data collected on a local, state or territory level.

Additional question under Topics in the census 2021 would be an excellent step towards collecting data that reflects the reality of rainbow families across Australia.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Introducing Rainbow Families

Rainbow Families Victoria defines rainbow families as including one, two, three, four or more LGBTIQ parents or carers who care and nurture the children in their family. Family forms can include, but are not limited to, step or blended families, separated families, children who are fostered, in permanent care or adopted, children conceived through assisted reproductive technology, children living across two or more primary homes as part of their parenting arrangement, families with donors and/or surrogates who helped create them, either through altruistic surrogacy in Victoria or through international surrogacy arrangements. The complexities in our diverse rainbow family forms can be characterised in many ways and some examples are provided below:

There are many 'rainbow families' that are created through step or blended families, in which same-sex attracted single parents or couples are parenting with a former partner (or the same or opposite gender).

There are also families in which there are more than two parents actively involved in the day-to-day care of children from birth (as opposed to through separation or divorce). These families are formed through 'co-parenting arrangements' in which known sperm donors take on a fathering role and co-

parent with a lesbian couple or single woman. Many children who are parented by same-sex couples live across two households so as to spend time with their mother/s in one household and their father/s in another household.

Sole parents by choice are also becoming recognised as being more common. An Australian study (Work, Love, Play, see Power et al 2010) has suggested that there may be a large number of single mothers who identify as lesbian or bisexual. Many of these mothers conceive children when they are single and may or may not have a co-parenting arrangement with the donor or father of the child. In these circumstances, the donor/father will most likely not be listed in a child's birth certificate if they were conceived via artificial means (home-insemination, clinic-based insemination or IVF).

Children in some families may not be biologically related to each other (for example: where one child is born with a known donor and another with a clinic donor to two women in a relationship but listed as siblings on a birth certificate) or may have been conceived or born in different legal jurisdictions. Our rainbow families may include children raised in a rainbow family who were conceived differently from each other but are legal siblings (eg; one child raised with four co-parents over two homes - where one member of each co-parent relationship is biologically related to that child - and another child born through international surrogacy with a biological link to one parent in one home). There are many differing examples but central to all of our rainbow families are the children who live in them.

Some rainbow family forms began as what is perceived by external observers (support services, health and medical services, etc) to be heterosexual - after a child is born one parent may have transitioned so the family is now a same sex parented family or the family may include bisexual people as parents yet the family can be perceived as heterosexually parented by others.

In recent years (from around 2000 onward), gay and bisexual men in same sex relationships have begun using surrogacy services to form their families.

Anecdotally we are aware some lesbian/bisexual same sex couples may also be accessing surrogacy but at the time of writing have no data. This is most often done offshore in settings where commercial surrogacy is legal, and in most but not all cases an anonymous egg donor is used. In Victoria altruistic surrogacy has been available since 2010 and we are aware that some gay/bi male couples have accessed this option as a way to create their families.

Many same-sex couples or same-sex attracted single parents become parent

through fostering. While the option of becoming a foster parent is promoted to LGBT communities by some agencies, there is evidence that some LGBT people experience discrimination within the foster care system. In Victoria LGBTQ people as same sex couples were allowed to apply to adopt from September 2016, after having for many years been active as foster carers or carers of children on permanent care orders.

We respectfully recommend that the ABS undertake an extensive literature review of Australian research on diverse family forms within the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities to further inform the development of the Census 2021.





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 577169226

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Rainbow Families Victoria

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Introducing Rainbow Families Victoria.

Rainbow Families Victoria aims to empower and support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, non-binary, intersex and queer parented families - including parents, carers, prospective parents and our children. We coordinate events, produce educational material and resources, provide training and professional development as well as advocate to local, state and federal governments on behalf of rainbow families. Established in 2006, we have a long history of demonstrated success in achieving law reforms to support our rainbow families communities and will continue our work into the future, including developing presentations and a kit to update rainbow families, and services, on the law as it pertains to their relationships, children and families.

Please refer to our response to Additional Comments for a detailed explanation of rainbow families in Victoria and our diverse family forms.

Our families are growing in number and visibility.

Our rainbow family community is rapidly growing but data collection is not keeping up with us!

In data provided by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, from 1 January 2018 to 21 March 2018 there were 54 births registered where couples are same sex. This includes five births pre-2010 where amendments were made to the birth record. Of these, four amendments were to add a parent, and one was for a change of name. In Victoria no data is collected on the sexuality of single mothers nor are trans, gender diverse or non-binary Victorians able to easily change their birth certificates so in some cases births may appear registered to opposite sex couples. The lack of accurate state data impacts on Rainbow Families Victoria's ability to advocate accurately for our diverse family forms when considering budget submissions to state government, when advocating for representation in early childhood, education or health services, when calling for rainbow families to be included in pre-natal and post-natal care of parents and carers and their children, among other significant areas of social policy.

The 2016 Census found that there are now just under 46,800 same-sex couples living together in Australia. Although an increase of 39% since the 2011 Census, Rainbow Families Victoria concurs with the ABS that this is a largely underreported number as it does not consider the sexuality or gender diversity of respondents as individuals in households or even parenting across more than one household, only as a 'same sex couple'. Of those who completed the census, 23,700 identified as a male same-sex couple and 23,000 as a female same-sex couple. A total of 15% of same sex couples indicated they were living in same-sex couple families with children – representing a total of 10,500 children and young people aged under 25.

Given the complexities of collecting statistics of sole LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary parents and carers, as well as co-parenting families over two or more households, we expect that number of children living in rainbow families to be significantly higher.

Rainbow Families Victoria surveyed our community via a short four question survey on their experiences of the Census 2016 and on their ideas about questions regarding sex, sexuality and gender and diverse family forms. In the five days prior to June 30, we received 13 responses, elements of which have been included throughout our submissions. We gratefully thank the respondents and their families for contributing their experiences and suggestions to our submissions.

Key Recommendations for Census 2021

1. Include separate questions on sex, sexuality and gender and allow for opt-in options to protect identity and address genuine privacy concerns.
2. Include a separate question on intersex status (in line with the submission by intersex Human Rights Australia)
3. Includes questions that allows for accurate data on diverse family forms to be better identified and explained.
4. Include or amend Topic questions that show understanding of and acknowledge that
 - non-female identifying people can give birth or may have given birth previously
 - more than two people can be in an intimate relationship
 - children can live across two or more homes within multiple parent family forms.
5. Consider the privacy concerns of the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities and the possible implications of data collection and storage especially in relation to the online form which recorded names and address as part of the Census 2016 and any possibilities that data collected by Topic could be linked to peoples address.

Rainbow Families Victoria would also like to suggest that:

- a) The Census 2021 clarifies the definition of marital status to allow for overseas 'same sex' marriages now being recognised by the Australian government.
- b) The ABS consider a new range of papers be released post-Census 2021 including diverse family forms and the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities and the intersections between other topics such as religion, cultural diversity and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people, for example.

In the words of one respondent "You can only serve your population well when you truly understand it" and it is in that spirit that we commend our submission to the ABS.

Yours sincerely
Rainbow Families Victoria
June 30, 2018.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Topics on Households and families

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Household and family relationships

CL

☐ Marital status

☐ Persons temporarily absent on Census night

☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Rainbow Families Victoria considers our recommendation for a more accurate collection of data on the Households and Families Topic to be of national importance, more specifically to the support of policy development, planning or program monitoring as well as for research purposes.

Rainbow Families, like many people in relationships, are diverse. The questions asked in Census 2016 do not allow for more than two people to indicate a significant relationship in a household on the night of the survey. This made people in poly-amorous relationships unable to accurately reflect their relationships. Similarly multiple parent families (with more than two parents or carers) or co-parenting families were not able to explain how their diverse family form worked. We explain more about our diverse family forms within rainbow families in the Additional Comments section of this submission.

"...there are so many more complex family structures than the nuclear heterosexual model."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

"I do believe this is important to gather information about (diverse family forms_ So much of Australia's provision of services is centred around the heteronormative default to the exclusion of all others, and it can be very isolating and erasing of other families who don't fit that description."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Furthermore the inclusion of the Marital Status questions in the 2021 Census

need to be explained - with both marriage equality now available in Australia and overseas same sex marriages being recognised some explanation may be required.

"We couldn't define our family correctly as SSM wasn't an option"
Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Rainbow Families Victoria wishes to remind the ABS that in many rainbow families the intention has been that children live across two or more households as part of a co-parenting arrangement. In addition some rainbow families are separated and children move equally between two or more homes or dwellings. The word 'usually' makes it harder to consider these options for our diverse family forms.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

"I share a child with my ex same sex partner across 2 households and we couldn't be represented in the census"
Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Rainbow Families Victoria acknowledges that the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities are possibly considered 'small population groups' by the ABS definition. We appreciate that our rainbow families make up an even smaller, but not inconsequential, population group within these communities.

However combined with our key recommendations and the data collected under both the Population and the Sex and Gender Topics we believe a more accurate collection of data on diverse family forms could be collected.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Rainbow Families Victoria believes our recommendations in regards to questions asked and included under the Households and Families Topic will be easily understood by respondents, are simple and respondents for whom the question relates to will be able to answer it quickly and easily.

"This is also important for all families and in a multicultural society where not everyone is raised with direct birth parents. We need to see the structure of families and kins (included)..."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

"Framing a question around whether there are people included in what they define as their immediate family not living with them, is valid, regardless of sexuality."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Rainbow Families Victoria believes people should be provided with the appropriate set of questions under the Households and Families Topic that allow for accurate and relevant data to be collected about rainbow families and all diverse family forms nationally.

We do not believe that the recommendations or responses we have provided in our submission could be considered intrusive, offensive or controversial as they simply reflect the reality of people's lives, experiences and the diverse family forms they live in.

While we do believe that most respondents will be willing and able to answer accurately answer we do want the privacy of respondents and their families will be considered.

NOTE ON PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

Rainbow Families Victoria note that some members of the rainbow families communities do hold considerable concerns about the privacy of data collected through the Census 2021 especially if identifiable information like addresses and names can be linked to responses to other census questions.

Similarly there are considerations about under-reporting (where people choose to not include responses to some questions due to fears of personal safety or data security, for example) and the range of intentional and unintentional impacts that low reporting or low responses may have on government perception about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, including gender diverse and non-binary people, and our families.

"I myself may not feel safe disclosing especially if the data is again kept with our address."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

"I think this is difficult because census forms are now retained, which compromises privacy, because of the possibility of information being identifiable. I would support this more unequivocally if the forms were not retained. As it is, I think there will be massive under representation with a question like this because many people won't want to record sexuality - especially those with any history of distrusting state institutions. However, it's still worth including to seems a signal that all sexualities are valid, and maybe it will provide some info that will be useful for planning - even though LGBTQ will be massively under represented."

Respondent to RFV Survey, June 2018

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

Rainbow Families Victoria have either raised several concerns or made a number of recommendations on the Households and Families Topic in response to Assessment Criteria 1 to 4. We do not have significant expertise in statistics nor survey design to foresee if our recommendations will require considerable coding or processing nor if additional costs will be incurred. We do suggest that for some of our concerns to be addressed there may need to be some explanation (what is a co-parented family form, what is a multiple parent family form, for example) or that there may need to be multiple response categories required.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Rainbow Families Victoria strongly believes that rainbow families are increasing in number across all Australian states and territories but that our current data collection processes are out of date and not reflective of the reality of the lives of many members of rainbow families.

Any improvement to the questions asked in the Household and Families Topic that correctly and accurately reflect diverse families forms and the sex, sexuality and gender, as well as intersex status, of the people living in and belonging to rainbow families will be of immense benefit to future generations of Australians.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Rainbow Families Victoria is unaware of any other nationwide collection of accurate data related to rainbow families nor diverse family forms. We do not believe there is any accurate data collected on a local, state or territory level.

Additional question under Topics in the census 2021 would be an excellent step towards collecting data that reflects the reality of rainbow families across Australia.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Introducing Rainbow Families

Rainbow Families Victoria defines rainbow families as including one, two, three, four or more LGBTIQ parents or carers who care and nurture the children in their family. Family forms can include, but are not limited to, step or blended families, separated families, children who are fostered, in permanent care or

adopted, children conceived through assisted reproductive technology, children living across two or more primary homes as part of their parenting arrangement, families with donors and/or surrogates who helped create them, either through altruistic surrogacy in Victoria or through international surrogacy arrangements. The complexities in our diverse rainbow family forms can be characterised in many ways and some examples are provided below:

There are many 'rainbow families' that are created through step or blended families, in which same-sex attracted single parents or couples are parenting with a former partner (or the same or opposite gender).

There are also families in which there are more than two parents actively involved in the day-to-day care of children from birth (as opposed to through separation or divorce). These families are formed through 'co-parenting arrangements' in which known sperm donors take on a fathering role and co-parent with a lesbian couple or single woman. Many children who are parented by same-sex couples live across two households so as to spend time with their mother/s in one household and their father/s in another household.

Sole parents by choice are also becoming recognised as being more common. An Australian study (Work, Love, Play, see Power et al 2010) has suggested that there may be a large number of single mothers who identify as lesbian or bisexual. Many of these mothers conceive children when they are single and may or may not have a co-parenting arrangement with the donor or father of the child. In these circumstances, the donor/father will most likely not be listed in a child's birth certificate if they were conceived via artificial means (home-insemination, clinic-based insemination or IVF).

Children in some families may not be biologically related to each other (for example: where one child is born with a known donor and another with a clinic donor to two women in a relationship but listed as siblings on a birth certificate) or may have been conceived or born in different legal jurisdictions. Our rainbow families may include children raised in a rainbow family who were conceived differently from each other but are legal siblings (eg; one child raised with four co-parents over two homes - where one member of each co-parent relationship is biologically related to that child - and another child born through international surrogacy with a biological link to one parent in one home). There are many differing examples but central to all of our rainbow families are the children who live in them.

Some rainbow family forms began as what is perceived by external observers (support services, health and medical services, etc) to be heterosexual - after a

child is born one parent may have transitioned so the family is now a same sex parented family or the family may include bisexual people as parents yet the family can be perceived as heterosexually parented by others.

In recent years (from around 2000 onward), gay and bisexual men in same sex relationships have begun using surrogacy services to form their families.

Anecdotally we are aware some lesbian/bisexual same sex couples may also be accessing surrogacy but at the time of writing have no data. This is most often done offshore in settings where commercial surrogacy is legal, and in most but not all cases an anonymous egg donor is used. In Victoria altruistic surrogacy has been available since 2010 and we are aware that some gay/bi male couples have accessed this option as a way to create their families.

Many same-sex couples or same-sex attracted single parents become parent through fostering. While the option of becoming a foster parent is promoted to LGBT communities by some agencies, there is evidence that some LGBT people experience discrimination within the foster care system. In Victoria LGBTQ people as same sex couples were allowed to apply to adopt from September 2016, after having for many years been active as foster carers or carers of children on permanent care orders.

We respectfully recommend that the ABS undertake an extensive literature review of Australian research on diverse family forms within the LGBTIQ, gender diverse and non-binary communities to further inform the development of the Census 2021.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 1008596327

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

We believe motorcyclists need to be included in the ABS statistics.
The Number is increasing on our roads due to current infrastructure
Discriminatory to only include push cyclists and car drivers
The current census is not a correct overview

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☒ Number of motor vehicles
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Own a motorcycle?

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

data should be considered for legislative purpose
data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
data is needed for research purposes

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Motorcyclists are not a small population group and need to be included.
data is needed for all geographic areas
the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Needs to be easily understood and data collected by simple yes and no answers that respondents can easily find identifiable

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

All motorcyclists need to be considered
respondents are likely to be willing and able to answer accurately if questions

were of a general nature

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

If possible for other modes of transport, then possible for motorcyclist
the topic or question will not present major difficulties for coding the information

the topic or question will not require extensive processing
the topic will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census
the topic will not require a lengthy instruction or explanation
the collection of data on the topic will not require a large number of response
categories or multiple questions

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

All modes of transport need to be included to make this topic more accurate

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no overall data sources in Australia

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Motorcycle rider data is considered in every country all around the world.
Why not in australia. It needs to be.

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 Citizen Space from Delib



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 327945074

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

I am keen for a question to capture journeys to education, the retention of the question around household motor vehicle questions, and consideration of more modal categories for journey to work/education questions.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Mode of travel to work
- ☒ Name and address of workplace attended
- ☐ Number of motor vehicles
- ☒ Other/unknown

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Collecting data about journeys to education would be incredibly valuable for transport planning and analysis, and journeys to school represent a significant proportion of traffic in peak periods. With more students attending non-local schools, these journeys are becoming even more critical to understand. This information would be invaluable for active and public transport planning.

I am concerned about the proposal to remove household motor vehicle questions from the census. I am concerned that other data sources may not contain information about the garaging location of motor vehicles (especially employer owned vehicles), which could lead to underestimates of household motor vehicle availability (where employer owned vehicles are available for personal use). Household motor vehicle ownership is one of the biggest drivers of public transport use, which is an important issue for transport planning in cities. Should this question be dropped, I would suggest a simultaneous census be conducted of registered motor vehicles (any offset in dates between such censuses would hamper the ability to estimate motor vehicle ownership rates).

The growth in shared motor vehicles could have a profound impact on transport in cities. Therefore distinguishing whether people travelled to work in vehicles parked at their house or otherwise could become important to understand going forward.

We may see the rapid adoption of personal electric mobility devices such as electric scooters that allow people to travel by motorised transport off the road network. This could become an important issue for transport planning.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Household motor vehicle data can be combined with population data to calculate motor vehicle ownership rates. Collecting both sets of the data in the same census provides for a much more accurate calculation of vehicle ownership rates.

There is evidence that land use planning requirements require too much residential parking in some locations, and data on residential motor vehicles is critical to understanding if and where parking provision requirements are excessive (ie underutilised). This can lead to more productive land uses in inner city areas, with subsequent economic benefits for cities.

Journey to education data is required for small geographic areas, particularly to support planning of active and public transport routes to schools and tertiary education. By combining with demographic variables, a stronger understanding can be developed around journey to education mode choice.

Understanding use of shared motor vehicles is important for informing decisions around parking provision in new urban developments.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Journey to education data simply requires the name of the educational institution. With online data collection, it should be possible for respondents to choose from a list of registered institutions that may significantly speed up data processing (assuming this list would also have address details).

Understanding whether a vehicle used in the journey to work was parking at or near the house may be slightly more complex.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

I don't foresee obvious objections to the proposed questions.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

See my answer to item 3 for how education locations could be collected efficiently.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As mentioned previously, there is likely to be increased levels of motor vehicle sharing, through car share organisations, and the potential transition from private vehicle ownership to shared driveless vehicle fleets (particularly if insurance issues mean driverless vehicles are less likely to be owned by individuals).

Changes in journeys to education will be critical to understand as/if cities become more congested.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

Data should be available on student home and school locations, but this does not include mode of travel.

Car share providers might be willing to share the parking locations of such vehicles, but this will not give an indication as to their use.

As mentioned previously, I am concerned that alternative sources of motor vehicle information may not accurately capture where these vehicles are parked overnight.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Recent releases of 2016 census data have included the aggregation of "public transport". This includes taxis, which - while they are available to the public - they are privately hired and are not equivalent to the "mass transit" function of regular forms of public transport. Can I suggest they not be classified as public transport for future aggregations?

An important issue for public transport planning is understanding concentrations of people with limited personal mobility (ie can only walk short distances). Current census questions do not really capture whether people have a mobility impairment. In areas with concentrations of people with mobility impairment it may be necessary to have a higher density of public transport stops. Data could also be used to identify where community transport services could be more viable. Careful thought would need to be given as to how to word such a question.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 605990744

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The Lismore Significant Urban Area (SUA) should be expanded to include the Urban Areas of Wollongbar and Alstonville, in the Ballina LGA. This meets the following design criteria of an SUA: 'The SA2s included in the SUA should contain related Urban Centres that are less than 5 km apart'. The eastern extremity of Goonellabah (part of Lismore Urban Area) and the western extremity of Wollongbar are less than 5 km apart. Wollongbar and Alstonville are 1 km apart. Similar examples are the current boundaries of Coffs Harbour SUA and Bowral-Mittagong SUA. Generally it seems that an SUA is contained within one LGA and does not cross LGA boundaries. However one exception is the Newcastle-Maitland SUA which includes areas from multiple LGAs including Maitland, Cessnock, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGAs. Due to the population density of the Richmond River Valley, I suggest the Lismore SUA should be treated in the same manner as the Newcastle-Maitland SUA.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☐ Population

☐ Sex and gender

☐ Households and families

- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Topics on Location

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

- ☒ Address on Census night
- ☒ Usual residence
- ☒ Internal migration (Address 1 year ago)
- ☒ Internal migration (Address 5 years ago)
- ☒ Workplace address for the main job held the week before Census night
- ☐ Other/unknown

If other please specify

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Government and commercial planning organisations are currently at a disadvantage when looking at the population size of the Lismore SUA. The current boundaries may lead an organisation to underestimate the demand for their services.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

This submission is not proposing that new content be collected, just a change to the ASGS Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State classification to facilitate the use of small area information from Census data products.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

N/A

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

N/A

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

N/A

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

N/A

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

N/A





Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 219935781

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Desire to change the way the question on religion is formulated

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

My topic was - The question "What is the person's religion?" should be replaced with "Does the person practice a religion?" followed by "No religion". The problem with the current question ("What is the person's religion?") assumes a religion. I then addressed each criterion in the briefest way possible, cutting and pasting the criteria into my response. Very quick really.

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Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 520181556

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Include unanswered questions Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☒ Other

What is your submission about?

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

☒ Population

☒ Sex and gender

☒ Households and families

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

☒ Income and work

☒ Unpaid work and care

☒ Education and training

☒ Disability and carers

☒ Housing

☒ Location

☐ Transport

☒ Cultural diversity

☒ Religion

☒ Other topic

Topics on Transport

Choose one or more of the following topics that relates to your submission

Please select all that apply

☐

Mode of travel to work

☒

Name and address of workplace attended

☒

Number of motor vehicles

☒

Other/unknown

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

I ride a motorcycle to work.

This does not seem to be included?



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 123300593

☐ [Back to Response listing](#)

Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

National peak health organisation

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

The National LGBTI Health Alliance

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON)
Sexual Health Information Networking and Education South Australia (SHINE SA)
Intersex Human Rights Australia (IHRA)
Menzies School of Health Research
Please see Summary below for more detail on our Member consultation.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The present demand for data that is inclusive of sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people far outstrips the current supply¹. As such, this submission calls for the Sex and Gender topic to be amended to appropriately gather data on the sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics of the Australian population.

Conversations with the ABS during this submission process highlighted the need for investment in understanding the complex nature of how to best create inclusive response options for the sex question in the Census and the consequences of the current use of sex data generated by the Census. There is a need for the ABS to obtain an understanding of and fully engage with the issues related to information on sex and gender. Intersex Human Rights Australia has made a submission to the ABS which clearly outlines these issues and makes recommendations that the Alliance urges the ABS to take up. Inappropriate expression of questions in the sex and gender topic means that many people, including those within the heterogeneous population of people born with intersex variations, cannot accurately complete the Census. And through doing so can inflict wide-ranging harm, including invalidation and erasure.

Despite many LGBTI people leading healthy and fulfilling lives contributing to their families, local communities, workplaces and society as a whole, the limited data available shows LGBTI people experience multiple, interconnected and reoccurring forms of harm related directly to their gender identity and gender expression, sexuality and/or their sex characteristics². It is coming up against societal prejudices, rather than identity and expression that result in LGBTI people's experiences of marginalisation, stigma, isolation, prejudice, social

1 Badgett, M. V. L., & Crehan, P. (2017). Developing Actionable Research Priorities For LGBTI Inclusion. *Journal of Research in Gender Studies*, 7(1), 218-247.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy1.library.usyd.edu.au/10.22381/JRGS7120178>

2 International Commission of Jurists, (2017). Yogyakarta Principles plus 10: Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. Available from

http://yogyakartaprinciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/A5_yogyakartaWEB-2.pdf

exclusion, discrimination, abuse, and violence. These social determinants of health are reflected in LGBTI

populations heightened mental health diagnoses, psychological distress, self-harm, suicide ideation and suicide

attempts³⁴⁵⁶. National population data in the Census is vital in addressing the health needs that LGBTI people

experience.

The National LGBTI Health Alliance (the Alliance) is the national peak health organisation in Australia for organisations and individuals that provide health-related programs, services and research focused on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people (LGBTI) and other sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people and communities. Since 2012, the Alliance has formally expressed concerns with the ABS regarding its national data collection⁷⁸, welcoming recognition of its lack of inclusive practices in the lead-up to the 2016 Census⁹. However, despite gratefully acknowledging the contributions from the sector on inclusive data collection practices (in particular, recommendations on how to include intersex people, people of trans experience and people with nonbinary genders), the ABS erroneously chose to use a 'third sex' option (i.e. Male, Female and 'Other') to demonstrate their 'recognition'. The 2016 Census can be viewed as a step on the journey to generate inclusive statistics from the sex and gender topic. As we continue to progress towards inclusive data collection, the Alliance's submission hopes to provide an opportunity to both support and hold the ABS accountable to its declaration that it will continue to improve its future collection and their commitment to strive for data excellence¹⁰.

The Alliance currently has 170 members across Australia, including 70 organisations representing the vast majority of the LGBTI health and community services sector in addition to key researchers, health practitioners and individual consumers and carers. As part of this submission process, the Alliance received contributions from our Members, and the wider community from every state and territory, to convey to the ABS the practise wisdom,

3 Leonard, W., Lyons, A. & Bariola, E. (2015). A Closer Look at Private Lives 2: Addressing the mental health and well-being of LGBT Australians Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

4 Hyde, Z., Doherty, M., Tilley, P.J.M., McCaul, K.A, Rooney, R. & Jancey, J. (2014). The First Australian National Trans Mental Health Study: Summary of Results. School of Public Health, Curtin University, Perth.

5 Jones, T., Carpenter, M., Hart, B., Ansara, G., Leonard, W. and Lucke, J.

(2016). Intersex: Stories and Statistics from Australia. Open Book Publishers: London.

6 Robinson, K.H., Bansel, P., Denson, N., Ovenden, G. & Davies, C. (2014). Growing Up Queer: Issues Facing Young Australians Who Are Gender Variant and Sexuality Diverse, Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre, Melbourne.

7 Ansara, Y. G. (2016). Making the count: Addressing data integrity gaps in Australian standards for collecting sex and gender information [White paper]. Newtown: National LGBTI Health Alliance. Available at: <https://lgbtihealth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WhitePaper-MakingTheCount-Ansara-LGBTIHealthAlliance.pdf>

8 National LGBTI Health Alliance, (2013). LGBTI Data: 'Developing an evidence-informed environment for LGBTI health policy.' Available from: <https://lgbtihealth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LGBTI-Data-Online-Version-1.pdf>

9 Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017). 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census ,2016.

Available from

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2071.0~2016~Main%20Features~Sex%20and%20Gender%20Diversity%20in%20the%202016%20Census~100>

10 Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017). 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing.

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lived experiences and the consequences of not being adequately included in national population-based data

collection. The Alliance gratefully acknowledges the knowledge, support and contributions from AIDS Council of

New South Wales (ACON), Sexual Health Information Networking and Education South Australia (SHINE SA) and Intersex Human Rights Australia (IHRA).

The Alliance recognises the limitations of using the 'LGBTI' acronym to refer to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,

and Intersex people and communities. Inclusion is central to the work of the Alliance and its members. We practice

this by affirming that the diversity of human bodies, genders, sexualities, relationships, and identities is far broader

than any acronym can encompass. The Census sets a benchmark for national population-based research, and as

Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS can also practice inclusion through the implementation of data and

statistical evidence collection practices, that also affirms diversity. The statement in bold at the beginning of each of our subheadings is a quote drawn directly from an Alliance member, expressing their particular experience in relation to each issue. This submission will use a variety of phrases and acronyms to name and describe the people and communities we are discussing. These include acronyms LGBTI (which sometimes includes Queer) and SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics), and the phrase “sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people”.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

1. “There is no data that we can rely upon.” There exists global concern about the absence of adequate research on the lives and situations of LGBTI people¹¹. Our members describe how the foundational data used for many of their programs and initiatives relies upon research from overseas; research that is insufficient due to sampling, reach and scope; anecdotal evidence; and alarmingly, “gut feel”. Accurate population data can be used by our member organisations in their submissions to government, funding applications and service delivery and is crucial in fostering an evidence-informed environment for LGBTI health policy development.
2. “It would help us to focus our service provision to more specifically meet needs across LGBTIQ populations” Several of our Members who work in mainstream health organisations conveyed that inclusive population-based data assists them to determine if their services are meeting the varying needs of their sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse service users. Such data can also be used in an electoral and legislative context. An inclusive dataset provides elected representatives with a reliable evidence base to better inform their decision-making on crucial legislation, policies, budgetary investments and programs directly affecting the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people. As a result, the needs of sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse constituents will be more adequately represented in parliament. Also, inclusive data enables governments to more effectively monitor their fulfilment of international human

rights obligations.

3. “An LGBTI inclusive census would give us clearer demographic data for this priority group, for use in our program and policy work in terms of prioritising, planning and analysis.”. The following two examples demonstrate the pressure for and urgency of demographic data. Our member organisation SHINE SA was recently approached by their local government community mental health service provider for data sources to inform the review of their model of care. SHINE SA was able to provide relevant information and statistics. However, they noted there is an opportunity for this data to be accessed and provided by the ABS as it does for other priority populations, instead of government departments seeking out priority population information for models of care from service providers.

11 Badgett & Crehan, (2017). Developing Actionable Research Priorities For LGBTI Inclusion.

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In a more alarming example, our member organisation ACON shared their recent experience with the Priority Populations Unit in the Directorate of Primary and Integrated Community Health in South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD). The SESLHD’s recent report profiling vulnerable and priority populations the Unit works with fails to mention LGBTI people as a priority population, despite ACON being aware that the health district has one of the largest populations of LGBTI Australians in the country. The reason given for this exclusion was the report used 2016 Census Data as its foundation, and since LGBTI data was not collected in the Census, no analysis was available. This means the health services and programs undertaken by the Unit are not resourced to plan and develop services to respond to the health and wellbeing needs of LGBTI people. 4. “LGBTI-inclusive data will also allow more research in to the population level needs and gaps for LGBTIQ+ Australians.” National population-level data that can be effectively disaggregated can lead to resources being allocated to the specific groups whose needs have been so often ignored and erased. Groups which have been identified in research literature include Lesbian and Bisexual women, Transgender men and women, persons with non-binary identities, and people with variations in sex characteristics¹². Our members identify First Nations LGBTI, Sistergirls and Brotherboys; people living with Dementia; older people; pansexual and polyamorous identified people; Neurodiverse communities (which include people with diagnoses on the Autism spectrum) and the

Psychosocial disability population; suicide prevention and those affected by suicide. Fundamentally inclusive and appropriate data collection promotes data integrity in the Census. This has direct, positive outcomes for health research associated with LGBTI people and communities.

5. “The ABS has a duty to the Australian people to provide accurate population data. The LGBTIQ+ community are part of the Australian population, and is a community with significant health issues.” The 2021 Census has the opportunity to remedy the discriminatory practices of the 2016 Census. These include the continued exclusion of the majority of sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people and the expectation they expend more time and effort than other people to complete questions on Sex and Gender¹³. The ABS has a unique opportunity to provide a counterpoint to “an alarming global pattern”¹⁴ of poor health outcomes for groups within this population, whose particular vulnerabilities are exacerbated by stigma, exclusion and discrimination.

12 Badgett & Crehan, (2017). Developing Actionable Research Priorities For LGBTI Inclusion.

13 Ansara, Y. G. (2016). Making the count.

14 Badgett & Crehan, (2017). Developing Actionable Research Priorities For LGBTI Inclusion.

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6. “If the ABS were to collect data and do the work to determine the best way of accurately recording it, other government funded agencies will follow more readily.” Our member organisation SHINE SA is funded to deliver mental health services for trans and gender diverse communities. SHINE SA are bound by their funding requirements to use a particular software system Mastercare to document their service activity and clinical records. The minimum data set that the PHN collects includes “sex” and “male/female/transgender/not stated/indeterminate” as the response options available. As in the 2016 Census, this is another example of inaccurate response options. SHINE SA have conveyed to the Alliance that inconsistencies in relation to a reluctance to take up recommended standards for appropriate data collection practices means that those using the Mastercare software system are finding it challenging to accurately record patient data. This often results in significant, harmful consequences for service users. This is also reflected in the aged care sector. My Aged Care is an online portal used to access the aged care system. This portal and its associated structures do not capture any data that includes the gender, sexual orientation, and bodily diversity of older Australians. The 2021 Census provides the ABS with the opportunity to enact leadership in and provide guidelines for the collection, compilation and analysis of data across a range of health contexts.

7. “Given that the whole country was given the opportunity to vote on our

access to a basic human right, I think that at least we should be given the opportunity to be counted.” The minority stress-related impacts of the 2017 Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey¹⁵¹⁶ are still being felt by our members. Now that marriage laws are coming to pass across the country, yet another experience of a public activity - experiencing structural stigma by completing a non-inclusive form on Census night - has the capacity to exacerbate minority stress. Integrating international human rights standards as outlined in the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 ensures that data collection practices adequately capture the diversity of sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people. These overarching Principles outline the role of appropriate data collection in reducing poverty and social exclusion related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics¹⁷.

15 Perales, F., & Todd, A. (June 4, 2018). Available from:

<https://theconversation.com/how-stigma-impacts-lgb-health-and-wellbeing-in-australia-96904>

16 Perales, F., & Todd, A. (2018). Structural stigma and the health and wellbeing of Australian LGB populations: Exploiting geographic variation in the results of the 2017 same-sex marriage plebiscite. *Social Science & Medicine*.

17 International Commission of Jurists, (2017)

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

1. “The complexity is all the more reason to collect the data, so we have a better picture and understanding of what the population looks like with these complexities.” Current policies, strategies and programmes identify Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and LGBTI people among three vulnerable priority groups for action (see the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan¹⁸, Aged Care Diversity Framework¹⁹, Ageing plan²⁰). However, while national population data exists on two of these groups, there is a notable lack of inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and variations in sex characteristics. The value of LGBTI-inclusive questions in the Sex and Gender topic will be enhanced through generating and combining data with all

vulnerable and priority groups in the Census.

2. “Australia is recognized as having one of the most comprehensive and reliable Census data sets around the world and yet we do not collect information on one of the critical areas of diversity in our population.” The Alliance’s Silver Rainbow project provides national coordination and support activities promoting the well-being of LGBTI elders and the ongoing delivery of the LGBTI awareness training to the aged care sector. In this context, Silver Rainbow and Alliance Members outline how LGBTI-inclusive Census data would support aged care service providers to better cater to the needs of LGBTI elders and older people with diverse characteristics and life experiences of older people, including when developing their policies and procedures and in working with service users. It would also provide a more detailed analysis to providers of how many LGBTI elders are accessing aged care services, the age range of those accessing services, and from what areas. This data would also support the current revision of the Aged Care Quality Standards, support the outcomes of the National Aged Care Diversity Framework and the underlying LGBTI Aged Care Action Plan.

18 The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan (2017).

Available from: <http://apo.org.au/system/files/114356/apo-nid114356-451131.pdf>

19 Aged Care Diversity Framework (December 2017). Available from: https://agedcare.health.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1426/f/documents/04_2018/aged_care_diversity_framework.pdf

20 2010–2020 National Disability Strategy (2011). Available from: https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/national_disability_strategy_2010_2020.pdf

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3. “Make visible the many marginalized groups in Australia. Good research helps me do my job better, and helps wellbeing of my clients.” The Census has a unique ability to quantify the social and economic circumstances of small, target populations. LGBTI-inclusive data within the Census will be influential when seeking the broad inclusion of LGBTI indicators in other research.²¹

4. “[LGBTI-inclusive data] would highlight the need for businesses to implement inclusivity training and policies.” Additionally, it would enable businesses and other parties that want to utilise Census data to promote their services to create inclusive and respectful working environments and service delivery.

5. “Are there regions that could benefit from more active engagement around LGBTI issues? We simply don't know because we don't have the data.” This statement from one of our members exemplifies the need for LGBTI-inclusive data in small geographic areas. Many of our members have expressed the importance of having this data in order to adequately plan, promote and deliver

services in small rural areas. National population data in the form of the Census will enable LGBTI organisations to better target LGBTI populations in their work.

6. “Being recognised is paramount to respect.” Our First Nations Members and those who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have communicated to us of the need for the Census to be able to provide accurate data and understanding of Indigenous gender and sexual identities across the country. They have also commented how the inclusion of respectful and culturally responsive topics in the Census leads to more informed, culturally appropriate mapping and service delivery to Indigenous LGBTIQ Sistergirl and Brotherboy communities.

7. “If we have an accurate picture, we have a better chance of meeting the needs of these diverse people and communities.” Research has often viewed “LGBTI” as a single category, however within “LGBTI” there are several definite, but sometimes overlapping, demographics each with their own distinct experiences and health needs. Research that has collapsed these separate groups into one group for their analysis risk conflating and drawing conclusions that may not be representative of all groups²². Also, when considering mental health statistics for LGBTI people, it is vital to consider how intersectionalities with other identities and experiences may impact on an individual’s health and wellbeing. The National LGBTI Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy²³ is a plan for strategic action to prevent mental ill-health and suicide and

21 National LGBTI Health Alliance, (2013).

22 National LGBTI Health Alliance, (2016). “Snapshot of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention: Statistics for LGBTI People.” Available from: <https://lgbtihealth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SNAPSHOT-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-Outcomes-for-LGBTI-people-and-communities.pdf>

23 Morris, S. & Jacobs, R. (2016) National LGBTI Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy: A new strategy for inclusion and action Sydney. National LGBTI Health Alliance. Available from <https://lgbtihealth.org.au/resources/national-lgbti-mental-health-suicide-prevention-strategy/>

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promote good mental health and wellbeing for LGBTI people and communities across Australia. This strategy is founded on five principals, including the notion of Intersectionality. This term refers to the fundamental consideration given to other identity-driven needs and roles an LGBTI person may have. Our Members spoke specifically about the lack of Census data for particular sub-populations. These include but are not limited to the specific cultural

experiences and understandings of sexuality and gender of First Nations LGBTI Sistergirl²⁴ and Brotherboy people, people with a cultural and linguistic diversity, people with disabilities and people who are living in regional, rural and remote areas. Members also spoke about the need for Census data for understanding the additional intersectionalities of health, economic status, homelessness and age to assist in allocating appropriate resources to address community needs.

8. “Inclusive census data would better allow us and other organisations to show the impact of homelessness on LGBTI people.” Census data is particularly useful for looking at small populations and small geographic areas. However, a lack of LGBTI-inclusive data in the Census has contributed to sexual orientation, sex and gender identity minorities not being identified as among those requiring policy and practice intervention in relation to homelessness.²⁵ Our members have noted that LGBTI-inclusive data in the Census would more accurately show the intersecting factors of disadvantage such as homelessness. While the General Social Survey does include questions relating to homelessness, it is argued by Members that Census data is vitally important in targeting communities experiencing homelessness with appropriate resources and services.

24 Damien W. R. & Kate T. (2017). Indigenous Sistergirls’ Experiences of Family and Community, *Australian Social Work*, 70:2, 229-240

25 McNair, R., Andrews, C., Parkinson, S. & Dempsey, D. (2017). GALFA LGBTI Homelessness Research Project Final Report. *LGBTQ Homelessness: Risks, Resilience, and Access to Services in Victoria*. University of Melbourne and Swinburne University of Technology. Available from: <https://www.galfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/LGBTI-Homelessness-project-Final-report-September-2017.pdf>

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

1. “There are clear and simple guidelines and recommendations already in existence for the ABS to draw from.” In 2016 the Alliance published a white

paper identifying evidence-based solutions for collecting sex and gender information²⁶. There are several papers outlining evaluative research on population survey measures for sex and gender²⁷²⁸ Intersex Human Rights Australia also have guidelines and recommendations to draw upon in this area. The SOGIESC acronym - sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics - used in Human Rights spaces (e.g. Yogyakarta Principles plus 10²⁹) provides a useful framework to guide the separation of Census questions.

2. “Engaging with complexity is an essential aspect of access and inclusion.” In our consultation, members encouraged the ABS to make connections with LGBTI organisations with pre-existing inclusive data collection protocol. Members also encourage the ABS to bring into action public education campaigns with clear explanations for why these questions are included, to allay concerns about citizens ability to answer these questions accurately. In addition, normalising public discussions in relation to sexuality, gender, and bodily diversity will help drive cultural change. The Alliance has confidence in the ABS’ ability to include public education campaigns in its media strategy, as they have done so with Census collections regarding religion.

3. “Leaving out the option for people to answer the questions accurately, [the ABS] are already compromising data quality.” Omitting LGBTI-inclusive response options inevitably leads to an inaccurate representation of the Australian population. For example, a Member who works extensively with a number of Lesbian-inclusive organisations has noted that population sampling is inaccurate in collecting data about

26 Ansara, Y. G. (2016). Making the count.

27 Bauer, G. R., et al. (2017). "Transgender-inclusive measures of sex/gender for population surveys: Mixed-methods evaluation and recommendations." PloS one 12(5): e0178043.

28 Patterson, J. G., et al. (2017). "Measuring sexual and gender minority populations in health surveillance." LGBT Health 4(2): 82-105.

29 International Commission of Jurists, (2017). Yogyakarta Principles plus 10: Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. Available from http://yogyakartaprinciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/A5_yogyakartaWEB-2.pdf

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Lesbians, as many are fearful of identifying themselves in surveys due to experiences of stigma and discrimination. Including appropriate response options in the national Census will allow Lesbians to feel that they are recognised and a legitimate part of the Australian population. This example of specifically naming groups of people, including but not limited to Lesbians, has

the mutually reinforcing result of more accurate responses and a contribution to the breakdown of stigma and fear.

4. “Given marriage equality and recent changes in law for transgender people, Australia has never been more ready for LGBTI inclusive practice.” From 2016 to 2018, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) explored the feasibility of adding sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) questions to their Current Population Survey (CPS). They found the majority of their participants had no difficulty answering SOGI questions for either themselves or other people in their households; whereas, they judged income, employment, and disability questions to be more difficult for both self-response and response for other household members³⁰. The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, conducted by the ABS, was a unique opportunity to gauge the Australian public’s response to the issue of marriage equality. The high response rate far exceeded expectations³¹ and exemplified the strong interest and engagement of Australians to questions relating to sexuality and expression. Furthermore, of the eligible voting population, 12.6 million Australians submitted a clear response, and only 36 686 submitted a response that was not clear.³² This clearly demonstrates the capacity of Australians to understand the topic and to answer questions accurately.

5. “Being ‘counted’ is a huge way to validate people’s identity.” In their submission to the Census 2021 topics, Intersex Human Rights Australia speak of the deliberate and multilayered processes of silencing that has resulted in many people with Intersex traits or variations being unaware of their original sex characteristics. Considering the complex nature of capturing population-based data on people who are Intersex the ABS has a unique opportunity to work alongside peer-led Intersex organisations to engage in the construction of appropriately framed questions. Appropriately framed questions in the sex and gender topic can both gauge the Australian public’s responses and explore the Australian population’s understanding of body diversity.

³⁰Office of Survey Methods Research, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (2018). “Assessing the Feasibility of Asking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Cognitive Interviews.” Available from: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2018/adrm/rsm2018-06.pdf> ³¹ Kalisch, D. W. (2017). ABS Media Release: “Australia supports changing the law to allow same-sex couples to marry.” Available from: [http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/1800.0~2017~Media%20Release~Australian%20Marriage%20Law%20Postal%20Survey%20Results%20\(Media%20Release\)~50](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/1800.0~2017~Media%20Release~Australian%20Marriage%20Law%20Postal%20Survey%20Results%20(Media%20Release)~50)

³² Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2017). “1800.0 - Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, 2017: National Results.” Available from:

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

1. “[To suggest that asking questions] about variations in sex characteristics, gender and sexuality is offensive feeds into the myth that being LGBTI itself is not acceptable.” The research conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), also found that most of the respondents in the CPS did not find questions on sexual orientation or gender identity sensitive, and that all respondents were willing to answer the questions for themselves and other members in their household.³³ However, there was some sensitivity among Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people in answering a question on sexual orientation. This was due to these respondents being uncomfortable with the question wording and response options. This provides an opportunity for the ABS to draw upon their expert recommendations and guidelines on collecting LGBTI-inclusive data to avoid data accuracy issues in relation to concerns around sensitivity and offensiveness. Many of our members have noted that questions on religion, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and income have historically been considered as sensitive and intrusive, yet are now normalised.
2. “Include information about why the data is being collected, what it will be used for, how it will be stored and most importantly that the data is unable to be linked back to them as an individual.” The inclusion of LGBTI response options in any data set may open up questions of safety for respondents. As with other demographics collected (e.g. religion and ethnicity) a person who is LGBTI may or may not be known by people around them. Many LGBTI people may have faced discrimination by both individuals and institutions, indeed in some cases, discrimination is seen as continuing to be enshrined in law. It is understandable therefore that LGBTI people may elect not to disclose information asked of them in a sex and gender topic with questions that are inclusive of sexuality, gender, and bodily diversity. This may be a particular issue in settings where the respondent fears the impact of disclosing, is concerned about stigma or discrimination. It may also occur where the collector of information has not

adequately explained why the information is needed or how it will be used. There is a range of strategies the ABS can implement to mitigate some of these concerns and increase response rates.

3. “Inclusivity is paramount, people identify in many ways; some of which are culturally specific.” The Alliance knows from experience, that to be inclusive and get it right means having culturally appropriate

33 Office of Survey Methods Research, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (2018). “Assessing the Feasibility of Asking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Current Population Survey: Results from Cognitive Interviews.” Available from: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2018/adrm/rsm2018-06.pdf>

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terms. The Alliance encourages the ABS to invest in developing culturally appropriate terms specifically in the response options for the sex question and gender topic, as well as more broadly across all topics in the Census. As Members have told us, this enables First Nations people to respond and have a visible presence in population-based data.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

1. “I would be very surprised if it costs more to the public dollar to implement these changes than it does to address the health and social issues that is currently a reality from not collecting this data.” In the broad context of the costs associated with amending the sex and gender topic to appropriately collect data on sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people the preceding quote from a Member in our consultation is telling. As previously mentioned, the findings of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suggest a positive outlook for concerns in the Australian context of lengthy instruction or explanation. 2. “LGBTI people are worth it.” While it is not the intention of the ABS, the notions of difficulty, effort and cost outlined in the points for discussion in this Assessment Criteria have caused consternation for Alliance Members. Given the cycles of invisibility within many health-related strategies, policies, frameworks, programs and project responses³⁴, one of our Members pointed

out how these notions could be interpreted as “weasel ways out”. Overall Members’ comments consistently stated the need for data on sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people in the Australian population far outweighs arguments of efficiency associated with creating inclusive questions in the Sex and Gender Topic. The Alliance and its Members want to continue its relationship with the ABS to address concerns regarding the efficient collection of data.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

1. “Failure to count us is a breach of the ABS commitment[s].” The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines LGBTI inclusion as “... access to opportunities and achievements of outcomes for LGBTI people...”³⁵. Having population-based data is essential to monitor the progress of health outcomes and wellbeing of sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people. Due to the poorer health outcomes for these subpopulations. This is a priority in the present and will remain so in the future. Recently, Australia has reaffirmed its commitment to the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals. ³⁶ The ABS has the opportunity to mirror Australia's broader obligations in this space.
2. “A great way of helping us to better understand ... how our community may change over time and to work towards remaining relevant, responsive and inclusive.” Time series data collection on sexuality, gender and bodily diverse people, established through the inclusion of appropriate response options in the sex and gender topic, can lead to ongoing effective direct service provision. Time series data can also inform ongoing work to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for intersectional sub-populations through statistical processes of aggregating and disaggregating Census data.
3. “A motivating driver for policy change.” Currently, Census data is used to map how numerous elements of Australian society have changed over time. If a time series on sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people could be cross-referenced with existing time series, such as family structure and workforce participation, better informed government and sector-based policy can be developed.

4. “[It] helps to bust myths, outline trends and open contemporary conversations.” The ABS states that a time series has the ability to show the impact of types of events on the data item being measured³⁷. Time series data on sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people can identify the impacts of inequity and discrimination on these sub-populations.

35 Badgett & Crehan, 2017, p. 224

36 Williams, W. (June 19, 2018) Australia’s SDG Report Card Shows Commitment to the Goals. Pro Bono Australia. Available from:

[https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2018/06/australias-sdg-report-card-shows-commitment-goals/?utm_source=Pro+Bono+Australia+-+email+updates&utm_campaign=dc58447229-](https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2018/06/australias-sdg-report-card-shows-commitment-goals/?utm_source=Pro+Bono+Australia+-+email+updates&utm_campaign=dc58447229-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_18_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee68172fb-dc58447229-147730161&mc_cid=dc58447229&mc_eid=08a241f10f)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_18_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee68172fb-dc58447229-](https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2018/06/australias-sdg-report-card-shows-commitment-goals/?utm_source=Pro+Bono+Australia+-+email+updates&utm_campaign=dc58447229-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_18_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee68172fb-dc58447229-147730161&mc_cid=dc58447229&mc_eid=08a241f10f)

[147730161&mc_cid=dc58447229&mc_eid=08a241f10f](https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2018/06/australias-sdg-report-card-shows-commitment-goals/?utm_source=Pro+Bono+Australia+-+email+updates&utm_campaign=dc58447229-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_18_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee68172fb-dc58447229-147730161&mc_cid=dc58447229&mc_eid=08a241f10f) 37 Statistical Language - Time Series Data (2013) Available from:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/a3121120.nsf/home/statistical+language+-+time+series+data>

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

1. “Data is problematic in terms of generalisability to whole populations.” Badgett and Creehan in their 2017 paper on the development of LGBTI-inclusive actionable research priorities, recognise that both discussions and research about LGBTI issues begin by stating the size of the LGBTI population³⁸. Since Australian population-based data on LGBTI people is non-existent, the onerous task must be undertaken to piece together population estimations from research conducted by a variety of sources. These include research undertaken by Australian and overseas specialist research organisations, the Australian Human Rights Commission, government departments such as Crime Statistics Australia, academics and (often volunteer-run) community groups from within Australia and overseas. In addition, the Alliance anticipates the General Social Survey (GSS), which asks

participants about their sexual orientation will be held up as an adequate alternative source of data. The GSS is inappropriate for the following reasons. The GSS is designed to capture the characteristics of population groups with reported low levels of 'life satisfaction'. The GSS relies on population and household benchmarks based on the most recent Census³⁹ which, as demonstrated, does not appropriately gather data on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. Thus, the GSS cannot effectively capture the multidimensional nature of relative advantages and disadvantages across the LGBTI population. Along with the Census, the GSS does not include response options that capture Trans and gender diverse and Intersex people. In addition, the GSS currently has inappropriate response options for sexual orientation as demonstrated by grouping Bisexual and 'other' sexual orientations in the results and discussion.⁴⁰

2. "We simply don't know because we don't have the data." We consulted with members on the LGBTI-related data they currently use in their work. The overwhelming response was that while they were thankful for its existence, there is a demonstrable need for population-based data. The limitations of the various data sources used included: reach, sampling, scope, frequency and consistency of the research;

³⁸ Badgett & Crehan, (2017), p. 226.

³⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2015). "4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014." Available from:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4159.0>

⁴⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2015). "4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014." Available from:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4159.0>

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bias and erasure embedded in a binary gender/sex system of medical diagnosis; and, the resulting misrepresentation of sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people in the academic literature.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 808734158

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Identification of significant time spent living in another dwelling/residence
Publication of usual residents in non private dwellings at small area level (not just numbers usually resident on Census night)
Publication of private dwelling occupancy by small area

People who spend significant amounts of time in more than one residence has been an issue in the compilation of accurate usual resident population counts, de facto population counts, as well for gaining a better understanding of population mobility.

The increasing number of fly-in-fly-out workers, 2nd home owners, consultants,

contractors, seasonal workers, tourists, long-term housesitters etc present particular problems for understanding population (and consequently planning) tied to place. In these circumstances people's perception of usual residence might differ from the formal definition.

Populations affected include:

- Non resident workers (e.g. fly-in-fly-out workers)
- Residents of boarding schools or accommodation supporting post school study such as university colleges
- Mobile Indigenous Australians
- Children in shared care arrangements
- Australian workers who maintain an overseas base when not working
- Amenity and lifestyle migrants who may alternate between residences based on seasons or other factors.

Understanding these dynamics are particularly important for places which are disproportionately affected by circulation of these population groups between residences. These include:

- Rural and remote Australia where population numbers are small and dual residents may create major impacts for housing and infrastructure (especially towns at or near resource industry activity)
- Remote Indigenous communities where short term mobility impacts on service provision and access

The 2011 UK Census included a question that explicitly asks whether the responder/s spend/s time at another address for a period of 30 days or more in the year (see question examples below). An additional question could be asked to identify the time, regularity or season which would be useful in determining seasonal patterns and could help determine the responder/s' usual residence should be assigned. Whether the person lives at another address, where they are counted in terms of resident population, and how service populations can be identified are the key issues. The addition of these questions allows for the computation of service populations and has the potential to greatly improve the accuracy of usual resident counts for small areas and sub-population groups.

A related issue is whether private dwellings were occupied or unoccupied on a usual residence basis at the time of the Census. Besides the ABS, a number of other agencies and consultants compile and publish population projections for very small areas or for minority population groups using dwelling-led projection methods. Census publication of private dwelling occupancy by small area

would assist in improving the accuracy of these projected populations.

An additional challenge associated with improved population estimates, particularly for small areas, is knowledge of non-private dwellings and their number of usual residents (rather than the number of persons who happen to be present on census night). Again, publication of the classification, occupancy and geocoding of NPDs would improve the accuracy of population projection methodologies by minimising assumptions made about the input data.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☐ Sex and gender
- ☐ Households and families
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☐ Income and work
- ☐ Unpaid work and care
- ☐ Education and training
- ☐ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Cultural diversity
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

Accurate population estimates, accommodating outputs based on usual residents and service populations has the potential to improve electoral representation, but also policy and practice associated with workforce planning, productivity and the identification of skill shortages.

Research supporting issues around the non-resident workforce often cites data limitations as a barrier to better understanding of current workforce challenges and strategies associated with FIFO arrangements.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Australian population is highly mobile. The current Census questions leave the decision of where someone usually lives to the responder with the prompts around usual residence complex and the idea of “home” often compounding the misunderstanding of the importance of accurately identifying usual residence in terms of the current definition. There are also cultural considerations associated with “home country” that can interact with concepts such as homelessness and mobility for the Indigenous community. These issues can lead to both over and under enumeration.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

It is suggested that the concept of usual residence is not easily understood and the question status quo impacts negatively on the quality of population estimates. The addition of a question set asking for information about the other residence (or residences) has proved successful in other countries but may require some tweaking for the Australian circumstances.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Sensitivity or concern about the question is not generally anticipated, however there may be issues associated with domestic violence refuge shelters that could be accommodated in the enumeration process.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

See responses previously provided.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

The experience of living in more than one residence is common, and indeed may be on the increase with highly mobile workforces already playing a role in workforce planning strategies.

The publication of Census data that accommodates the need to understand how people are living, the dwelling stock, and population mobility is important to the compilation of improved population estimates and population projections. The need for this data is expansive as policy based on the circumstances of place becomes imperative to the efficient and effective delivery of population services.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are currently no adequate sources of information on multiple residences, occupancy rates of private dwellings at small areas, and the stock and spatial distribution of non-private dwellings and associated usual resident counts.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 330358914

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Planning Group, within the Department of State Development, Manufacturing and Planning.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The counting of 'flats attached to house or apartment' (referred to herein as 'secondary dwellings') requires reconsideration. Between the 2011 and 2016, the number of secondary dwellings recorded by the Census declined from 1,571 to 382 in Queensland. However, advice from local governments suggests that actual secondary dwelling numbers have risen. Therefore, the reported decline in secondary dwellings can be attributed to the Census method rather than an actual decline.

Secondary dwellings form an increasingly important part of the housing stock, and are increasingly built at the same time as new primary dwellings.

The approach used in the 2016 Census should be reconsidered, rather than being carried forward to the 2021 Census. All secondary dwellings either:

- need to be captured separately from the related primary dwelling (the preferred approach), or alternatively
- all need to be captured as part of the related primary dwelling only, to be clear on how the occupants of those dwellings affect overall dwelling occupancy rates and future projections of dwelling requirements.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The proposal is to address methods associated with an existing Census topic.

The change is required to provide clarity for the Census results and subsequent uses of those results.

Once clarified, the data will be usable for decision makers at all levels of government, as a basis for policy decisions.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The proposal is to address methods associated with an existing Census topic. The change is required to ensure the clarity and useability of Census results and fundamentally relates to the whole population and associated dwelling stock. The Census provides the only means of comprehensively addressing the relationship between dwellings and population.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household

completes themselves.

Easy to answer

The proposal relates to the identification, if appropriate, of distinct households in the primary and secondary dwellings. Once identified the completion of the forms will occur as currently.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

Once distinct households and dwellings are identified, there would be no effective change to current Census topics.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The efficiency of this change depends on the current approach to identification of distinct households and dwellings for primary and secondary dwellings.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

Secondary dwellings form an increasingly important part of the housing stock, so the need for clarification around enumeration of this dwelling type will continue.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census provides the only way in which dwellings, including the suggested capture of secondary dwellings, can be comprehensively related to the population occupying those dwellings.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 205554731

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Planning Group, within the Department of State Development, Manufacturing and Planning.

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

The self-contained dwelling units, and potentially accommodation units that are not self-contained, within what are currently classified as non-private dwellings should be categorised and counted as individual units.

At present, a building such as an apartment hotel is considered one 'non-private dwelling'. However, in practice, these buildings often consist of what are practically multiple individual dwellings, occupied by both residents and visitors. The proposal contained within this submission would see each dwelling/accommodation unit accounted for, as per the diagram below.

This approach would provide better alignment with actual land uses, and support assessment of future dwelling/accommodation needs.

A major difficulty with the current regime in counting each building as one non-private dwelling, is that as buildings transition over time, particularly from private to non-private dwellings, it appears as though the dwelling stock has changed - when in fact the dwellings still exist within what has been reclassified as a non-private dwelling. The reverse may also occur. Such transitions are particularly significant in areas with high visitor populations, e.g. tourist locations such as the Gold and Sunshine coasts and capital city CBDs and CBD fringe areas.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☐

☐ Cultural diversity

☐ Religion

☐ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The proposal will allow governments and others to better understand dwelling stock, as well as student, aged persons and other accommodation stock. This will support and inform policy decisions, such as decisions regarding the land available for urban development or redevelopment, or to encourage certain types of development. Importantly, changes over time in the classification of dwellings will be recognised as being distinct from actual changes in the dwelling stock.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

Only the Census can provide a comprehensive picture of the relationship between the dwelling and accommodation stock and the population. Gathering this data through a Census of the whole population will also allow differences between local areas, regions, states and territories to become apparent, further

informing policy decisions.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

This suggested change relates to the identification of the households for completion of the forms. Once the households are identified, the forms would be completed as now.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The questions answered by the Census respondents would be largely as they are now, except for different responses required re dwellings or accommodation, which would be similar to questions answered now by, and acceptable to, households in private dwellings.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The efficiency of this change depends on the approach to capturing the details of the population in what are currently classified as non-private dwellings.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As with existing housing questions, there will be a continuing need to understand the characteristics of what are currently classified as non-private dwellings.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The Census provides the only means to comprehensively capture the relationship between dwellings/accommodation by type and population



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 26755966

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ Business
- ☒ Industry body/association
- ☒ Community group

☐ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Planning Group, within the Department of State Development, Manufacturing and Planning

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Previous Censuses have differentiated between apartment buildings 1-3 storeys and 4+ storeys. This does not adequately differentiate building heights throughout Australia, as buildings above 4 storeys and significantly above 4 storeys become more common. Building heights considered by the Census should be expanded, to capture low-rise apartments (1-3 storeys), medium-rise apartments (4-8 storeys) and high-rise apartments (9+ storeys). This will allow policy makers to understand, report on and respond to housing trends more appropriately.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Other topic

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

It should be noted that the topic is not a new topic, but rather, a refinement of an existing topic. Building heights are increasing throughout Australia, particularly in inner-and-middle-ring suburbs. It is important for differences in height to be acknowledged at a Census level, to paint a full picture of dwelling types throughout the nation.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

It should be noted that the topic is not a new topic, but rather, a refinement of an existing topic. Gathering this data through a Census of the whole population will allow differences between local areas, regions, states and territories to become apparent, informing policy decisions.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

As the proposed change is a refinement of dwelling types already collected, the change should be no less accurately collected than the existing data.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

The proposal is merely a refinement of an existing Census topic. Respondents are likely to be as willing and able to answer as they have been in previous Censuses.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposal is merely an adjustment of an existing question, giving

respondents an additional response option. As such, the topic will not represent major difficulties for coding the information, it will not require extensive processing, it will not significantly add to the overall cost of the Census, it will not require lengthy instruction or explanation, and will not require a large number of response categories or multiple questions.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

As with existing housing questions, there will be a continuing need for the proposed change in future Censuses to understand Australian housing characteristics and trends overtime.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

There are no immediate or apparent alternative means to gather information of the proposed topic as efficiently as the Census. To align with the existing Census data collection, it makes sense to simply refine the dwelling type information already collected.



Review of 2021 Census Topics

Response 713499550

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Include unanswered questions ☐ Reloads page

Contact details

Who you are representing

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☐ Commonwealth government department
- ☐ State/territory government department
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Community group

☒ Educational institution

☐ An individual

☐ Other

If other please specify

External stakeholder reference group

Name of your organisation (if applicable)

Organisation

Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (HSRG)

Please list any other organisations you have collaborated with on this submission.

Who you have consulted with

HSRG members (*) and other related agencies:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare *

Council to Homeless Persons *

Department of Family & Community Services (New South Wales Government) *

Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmanian Government)

Department of Social Services (Australian Government) *

Housing SA (Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, Government of South Australia) *

Micah Projects Ltd *

Mission Australia *

NT Shelter Inc. *

Prime Minister & Cabinet (Australian Government) – Indigenous Housing Unit

RMIT University (Unison Housing Research Laboratory) *

Sera's Women's Shelter Inc. *

Shelter Tasmania Inc. *

Shelter WA * – incorporating comments from Department of Communities (Government of Western Australia); Centre of Social Impact, University of Western Australia; and Anglicare WA.

Swinburne University of Technology (Department of Social Science) *
Uniting *

University of NSW, City Futures Research Centre

Victorian Homelessness Network *

What is your submission about?

Please provide a brief summary of your submission

Topic name

Accurate homelessness estimates are essential for designing and funding policies and programs that impact people and families experiencing disadvantage across Australia.

HSRG identified six key issues with the content of Census forms for estimating homelessness, and proposes solutions for consideration and testing:

To more accurately count young people who are couch surfing, the Census needs to ask about the reasons people are not at home on Census night.

To fill the gap in data on family homelessness the Special Short Form and NPD Form need to be able to capture information about family relationships

Allow self-identification of non-binary sex/gender

The definition of 'supported accommodation for the homeless' needs to be clarified, to improve accuracy and efficiency of data collection.

Identification of veterans who are an emerging homeless population.

To enable counting of persons not in a dwelling one or five years ago, this potentially lends to homelessness analyses of entries and exits.

Census enumeration processes also needs to be improved for accurate data collection.

Issue 1 - Where does this person usually live?

This question is essential to estimate persons experiencing homelessness, including:

persons who are in improvised dwellings, tent or sleepers out (sleeping rough)

persons staying temporarily with others (couch surfing)

persons in other temporary lodging

However, the ABS recognises that this methodology results in an undercount, particularly of youth homelessness.

Young people who are couch surfing are likely to put their parent's address as their usual address, even if family conflict prevents them from returning there. This has also been raised as an issue for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

The question also does not differentiate between homeless persons staying in temporary lodgings and 'grey nomads', as both cohorts generally are enumerated in hotels, motels and caravan parks; have no or little income; and have no usual address. In the 2016 Census the ABS attempted to differentiate by encouraging homeless persons in temporary lodgings to write "None - Crisis" rather than "None". This however was not included as an instruction on the form, was not well publicised, and did not account for the different terms used for this type of homelessness in different states. In fact, only 63 persons were added to the homeless count by reporting "None-Crisis".

Proposed change

Tick-box response options should be added to this question for people with no usual address, with supporting instructions. For example: "No fixed address", and "Tourist or traveller with no usual address".

A question should follow-up for 'visitors' who are not enumerated at their usual address to identify reasons why they were away from home on Census night. This would better enable identification of couch surfers, as well as other groups, such as FIFO workers and domestic tourists. This question should be multiple choice, including an 'Other (please specify)' category. For example: What was the main reason you were away from home?

Travel or holiday

Work

Education or training

Accessing services (e.g. health services)

Special occasion or event (e.g. wedding, reunion, concert, sport)

Wanted to visit friends, family or partner

Conflict or family issues at home

Home not currently habitable (e.g. natural disaster, renovations)

Housing is unaffordable

Other (please specify)

The Census is not an appropriate forum to directly ask about family violence or abuse. This could cause distress and that there is no way to ensure the wellbeing of respondents. Therefore, a broader category, such as 'conflict or family issues at home', should be considered and tested.

This question assumes that the person completing the Census form is aware of

their visitor's reason for being away from home. This may not always be the case, such as, if a young person was staying with a friend's family.

Collaborating with schools and service providers to educate parents and young people about youth homelessness could improve accurate reporting in the Census.

Should 'Conflict or family issues at home' prove difficult to answer, 'Other' could be a suitable response supported by education and awareness through service providers of how to report.

The 'reason for visiting' question could be further enhanced by including a direct question about dwelling type to enable more accurate classification of homelessness groups.

Issue 2 - Family Homelessness

The current methodology for homelessness enumeration in the Census does not enable family homelessness to be measured outside severe overcrowding. Understanding family homelessness is essential for policy and program design. For example, the service and supports needs of lone young person who is homelessness will be very different to a young person in a family who is homeless (e.g. Youth homelessness is one of the NSW Premier's Priorities. A 'Special Short Form' was designed to enumerate individuals sleeping rough so did not include relationship questions. In 2011 the ABS attempted using the Household Form to enumerate families sleeping rough, and in 2016 the ABS attempted to collect data to link family members' Special Short Forms. Data on families sleeping rough collected using these methods was not of sufficient quality for the ABS to publish.

People who are temporarily staying with friends or family are enumerated using the Household Form. The Household Form collects relationship to Person 1 on the form, and uses this to derive all relationships in the household. This means that multiple families within one household can only be identified if they are related. Families temporarily staying with family friends cannot be identified. This also means that the ABS is undercounting the number of families experiencing severe overcrowding.

People experiencing other types of homelessness complete the Census using the Individual Form, which does collect data on family relationships.

Proposed Change

The ABS designs a family version of the Special Short Form that includes key questions on family relationships and allows for several people to be enumerated on the one form. This would be more efficient than using the Household Form, or completing several individual Special Short Forms, especially if the Special Short Form is moved to an online application. Similarly, the ABS develops a Family Non-Private Dwelling (NPD) Form to enumerate NPDs such as hotels, motels and crisis refuges. Although this would

result in a larger form, it would reduce burden on the managers of these NPDs (SFOs and PICs), as they would only need to record forms completed by each family, not each person.

Questions on family relationships on the Household Form should be adjusted to include non-related families living in the one household. So that this does not introduce unnecessary respondent burden, this could be done through follow-up questions for any person not related to Person 1 on their Census form. For example:

Are you related to anyone in this household on Census night? Yes/No

Who is the first person listed on this form that you are related to? Person 2, Person 3, etc

What is your relationship to that person?

This additional information would enable improved derivation of housing suitability and its application to overcrowding measures

Issue 3 – Is the person male or female?

The current question wording does not reflect as a minimum, the Gender Standard Classification in Standard for Sex and Gender Variables, 2016 (Cat No 1200.0.55.012) where 'Other' is a third category. Under the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender, the Commonwealth Government expects Departments and Agencies to be collecting this data. Furthermore, the Census question does not define whether the concept of collection is sex, gender or sexual orientation.

In its current form the Census does not allow for any analysis of LGBTIQ homelessness in spite of recent Australian research showing that LGBTIQ individuals are at risk of homelessness and experience poorer mental health outcomes than their contemporaries. The Final Report of the GALFA LGBTQ Homelessness Research Project (September 2017) relied on analysis of General Social Survey (2014) and 'Journeys Home' longitudinal survey, with qualitative interviews, to report on LGBTIQ homelessness. This report recommended that Australian homelessness and housing policies should include LGBTIQ people as vulnerable sub-groups that require specific attention; and that data collection that includes sex, sexual orientation and gender identity should be mandatory and linked with homeless service funding agreements.

Proposed change

The Census should capture 'Other' as a minimum, as there currently is no method of counting gender diversity in the Australian population.

The HSRG acknowledges that LGBTIQ homelessness is an ongoing area of data interest, with growing policy interest. Improving information gathering on genders, sex characteristics, and sexual orientations would assist 6 research in this area. HSRG will defer to submissions from LGBTIQ community

organisations for their advice on appropriate question wording, and their assessments against the criteria.

Issue 4 - People in Supported Accommodation for the Homeless

In this operational group, the ABS includes people in NPDs identified as “hostels for the homeless, night shelters, and refuges” on the Census Address Register and in dwellings flagged as Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) accommodation by Governments and sector providers. However, with the end of SAAP, what the ABS considers as supported accommodation is unclear and does not account for the increasing diversity and flexibility of the housing arrangements provided through homelessness programs. For example, short-term head leasing arrangements are becoming more common.

Proposed Change

The ABS, in consultation with HSRG, conducts a systematic review of different types of housing arrangements. From this, a clearer definition should be formed. The ABS should then explore whether it is possible to collect the information required to derive support accommodation through the Household Form.

For example, if the definition is ‘short-term housing provided by Government or a Community Housing Provider’, it may be possible to derive this from the current tenure and landlord questions if a question about length or security of the tenure arrangement was added.

Any definitional change will then be considered to ensure correct addresses, on supported accommodation lists, are provided by Governments and sector providers. In 2016, lists were asked to differentiate between accommodation types: emergency/short-term, transitional/medium-term, and long-term accommodation. This information can be explored further if suitable for estimation purposes.

Issue 5 – Veterans homelessness

The Census form does not have a question or option to select whether the respondent is an Australian Defence Force veteran. The 2018 State of Homelessness In Australia's Cities report of consolidated registry weeks found that 6% of homeless respondents were classified as veterans, 61% were rough sleeping, 43% had a serious brain injury or head trauma, and a much higher proportion than for non-veterans had a permanent physical disability that limited their mobility.

AIHW introduced a new question in November 2016 into their Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) identifying clients who are current or former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Results will be available from December 2018.

The Department of Veteran's Affairs recently engaged UNSW and Adelaide

University to research homelessness in the veteran community. Its aim is to collect data about homelessness in the veteran community so the Government can then better integrate support services available to homeless veterans with those offered by mainstream specialist homelessness service providers. This dataset will complement the new AIHW data. However Census estimates would further assist policy makers by identifying the locations and characteristics of the homeless veteran population, and whether the service delivery response is adequate.

Proposed Change

The ABS introduces a question similar to AIHW, to identify if a person had served in the Australian Defence Force for persons 18 years and above.

Are you a current or former Australian Defence Force member?

Yes

No

not stated

inadequately described

Issue 6 – Usual residence one or five years ago

The Census asks “Where did the person usually live one year ago?” and “Where did the person usually live five year ago?” For persons who had no usual address during these times is advised to write the address at which they were then living. This is not an appropriate instruction for those who were not in a dwelling because of homelessness. Asking to choose a ‘No fixed address’ tick box would be a more suitable option. It would enable analyses of longer-term (chronic) rough sleeping, and enable longitudinal analyses of housing and homelessness pathways, but also analysis on homelessness exits for those who were enumerated in a dwelling but were previously without a dwelling. According to General Social Survey 2014, of persons who had experienced homelessness in the last ten years, 15.6% of people had experienced homelessness 1-2 years ago and 30.6% had experienced it 5-10 years ago. While the suggested question wording might apply to persons who were in improvised dwellings (eg. Remote construction workers) or in tents (eg. campers) due to non-homeless reasons one or five years ago, they are more likely to report their usual address. In any case the estimation methodology would have filtered them out in previous homelessness estimates.

Proposed Change

Add ‘No fixed address’ tickbox to the ‘Where did the person usually live one/five year(s) ago’ question.

Choose your area of interest

Please select one item

(Required)

- ☒ Population
- ☒ Sex and gender
- ☒ Households and families
- ☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ☒ Income and work
- ☒ Unpaid work and care
- ☒ Education and training
- ☒ Disability and carers
- ☒ Housing
- ☒ Location
- ☒ Transport
- ☒ Cultural diversity
- ☒ Religion
- ☐ Other topic

If Other topic please specify

Homelessness and marginal housing

Assessment Criteria 1

1. This topic is of current national importance.

National Importance

The Census remains the single most important data source to assess the scale of homelessness in Australia. More recent policy initiatives and social trends have heightened the national importance of accurate homelessness statistics. In 2017, The Commonwealth Government announced an intention to reach a National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) with the State and Territory Governments. One aim of the NHHA is increased transparency and accountability for delivery on outcomes by State and Territory governments. This increases the national need for accurate homelessness data. The NHHA will commence on 1 July 2018.

Social impact investment is increasingly being used to fund homelessness and housing programs. ABS Census homelessness estimates are being used to model and set market prices under these investment models.

The increase in homelessness between 2006, 2011 and 2016 demonstrates that homelessness is a growing social issue. Homelessness estimates provide an evidence base for advocacy and program funding. The estimates are particularly important for identifying and developing programs to meet the needs of new and existing cohorts experiencing homelessness, such as older women; and those living in extreme crowding as a result of unaffordable housing. In this way, the Census homelessness estimates impacts the quality of life of some of the most disadvantaged people in Australia.

The Census homelessness data is anticipated to provide greater research capacity once it is successfully linked to the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). The current lack of a longitudinal data source to examine pathways in and out of homelessness is seen as an obvious data gap, in which MADIP is seen as one potential solution to address this shortcoming.

Assessment Criteria 2

2. There is a need for data from a Census of the whole population.

For whole population

The Census is the only collection enabling an ongoing measurement of total homelessness across Australia. Administrative data sources such as AIHW's Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) reports on clients

seeking services, and tends to exclude certain types of homelessness such as severe overcrowding, and those who do not engage with homelessness services. There is likely to be systematic bias in this data based on the locations of services, the cohorts services are aimed at, and differing ability of different cohorts to navigate homelessness services.

ABS survey data is also not adequate. The proportion of people in Australia experiencing homelessness on any one night is relatively low (at 0.5%) and is heterogeneously distributed across geographies. As policies are generally aimed at certain cohorts, and programs are typically funded to be delivered within specific geographies this creates a requirement for small group and area data.

Some of the key sub-populations that the Census enables disaggregation of are:

- Youth (alone and as part of a family)
- Older women
- Single parent families
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People from CALD backgrounds
- People with a disability

Other key sub-populations that the Census does not enable disaggregation of are:

- Out-of-home-care leavers
- People who have left domestic violence
- People with experience of mental health
- People who have had contact with the justice system
- People from the LGBTIQ community
- People who are veterans (whether deployed or not)

However, the Census is not able to collect data to differentiate between all these groups. Furthermore, the Census is not an appropriate forum to ask about traumatic experiences, such as domestic violence.

The proposed modifications will improve ways of enumerating and estimating the overall prevalence of Homelessness in Australia and particularly the homelessness prevalence for young people, those fleeing domestic violence and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Improved estimation will allow greater planning location and distribution of services and other policy reform strategies to address the needs of these and other homelessness groups.

Assessment Criteria 3

3. The topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves.

Easy to answer

Homelessness is not a question directly asked on the Census form. It can be a very sensitive question to ask directly and even then can be interpreted in many ways. Instead, estimates of the homeless population are derived from the Census using both the characteristics reported in the Census and assumptions about the way people may have responded to particular Census questions.

For 2021, the proposed HSRG modifications to existing Census content should be simple enough to be understood and collected. With electronic reporting expected to be the main (and preferred) enumeration method in 2021, there are opportunities to simplify reporting through personalising the form and question sequencing. This should enable relationship questions to be added particularly to the Special Short Form.

Assessment Criteria 4

4. The topic would be acceptable to Census respondents.

Acceptable

As homelessness is not directly asked as a question on the Census form, the form in general should not be unacceptable for respondents to answer.

As noted in the summary, the Census is not an appropriate forum to directly ask about family violence or abuse, as this may cause distress to the provider, so care is needed to appropriately word responses to the proposed 'Reason for visiting' question. The proposal has the response option 'Conflict or family issues at home' to identify homeless couchsurfers. There is a risk however that

people might incorrectly answer this question as the visitor is reluctant to inform the person filling out the form of their family circumstances, yet this modification is still a substantial improvement on the 2016 Census form.

Regarding overcrowding, some homelessness agencies and service providers report that some people completing the Census form are reluctant to identify the number of persons living in their private or public dwelling for fear that they may be evicted for breaching tenancy or visa conditions.

It is recommended that a strategy needs to be developed to identify these overcrowded dwellings and reassure occupants that information provided through the Census is anonymous and will not result in negative consequences. Homelessness and other welfare agencies have an important educative role in advance of the Census to reassure people about the purpose and anonymity of Census data.

Asking questions on sexual orientation to estimate LGBTI homelessness is likely to be offensive to parts of the community. Question sequencing on an online form may limit this to some extent. HSRG will defer this assessment to the submissions by the LGBTIQ community.

Assessment Criteria 5

5. The topic can be collected efficiently.

Collected efficiently

The proposed HSRG modification of the usual address question and including the 'Reason for visiting' question, will add some burden to the enumeration, processing, coding of homelessness. However the improved homeless identification should reduce the downstream effort in analysis and estimation, and improve the quality of the estimates for several published homeless groups. A positive consequence of the added question is it enables more precise estimates on journeys to work and holidays.

Expanding the Special Short Form and the Personal Form to capture family relationship information will increase provider burden and increase processing

costs. From a provider perspective the length of an expanded SSF/PF is comparable to the longer questionnaire that is successfully asked of individuals sleeping rough participating in 'registry weeks'. The additional variables sought are identical to that already asked on the Household Form so should be re-useable.

Assessment Criteria 6

6. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on this topic in the following Census.

Continuing need

There will be an ongoing need for accurate data on homelessness. As the population increases, it is likely that the numbers of homeless persons will also increase. This will require a greater policy response, further investment by government and a strengthening of the homelessness support sector. Having a sound evidence base on which to base funding levels and locations will be imperative in ensuring government spending is efficient and effective.

The Census estimates of homelessness continue to inform Commonwealth and State/Territory policies on homelessness. The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement from 1 July 2018 will allocate funds of \$4.6 billion over 3 years, and will include \$375 million of new homelessness funding in which States and Territories are expected to match. A time series will enable a national and local assessment of the effectiveness of work programs.

Homelessness estimates feature in the Report on Government Services (RoGS) as performance indicator "Proportion of Australians who are homeless", which is defined as the 'Number of Australians who are homeless' divided by the 'Number of Australians'. The state level estimates are used to proportionally distribute Commonwealth funds to each State and Territory.

The homelessness estimates are also used extensively by governments and community for state and local planning and delivery of homelessness services; and used by researchers to measure social disadvantage and poverty particularly for key vulnerable populations.

Assessment Criteria 7

7. There are no other alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

No alternatives

The ABS reports on the previous experience of homelessness from its General Social Survey (GSS), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSISS) and Survey of Disability, Aging and Carers (SDAC). Key information released include frequency, duration, where stayed, type of assistance sought and whether needs were met in the most recent episode of homelessness. However it is not comparable to the Census homelessness estimates as the scope are those who are no longer homeless and are living in private dwellings. Outputs are only at State and Territory level.

The ABS also reports on where persons stayed when fleeing a current or previous partner because of domestic violence in its Personal Safety Survey (PSS). This survey is not designed to measure prevalence of homelessness. External sources of homelessness information include:

Rough sleeper counts – several inner city councils (Sydney, Parramatta, Adelaide, and Melbourne) conduct their own counts but they have differing methodology to each other and Census. In particular they are conducted at different times of the year and different times of the day. Yet they are useful to confirm the movements within the Census homelessness estimates.

Registry weeks – this assessment activity triages chronic rough sleepers with high co-morbidity into permanent supported housing. Its primary focus is to interview rough sleepers to determine their vulnerability through a diagnostic tool (VI-SPDAT). Some registry weeks do attempt to enumerate the prevalence of rough sleepers within their jurisdiction (eg. Inner Sydney) but are not comparable to Census data.

AIHW's Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) is a national homelessness data source that produces statistics on SHS agencies that are government funded to deliver accommodation-related or personal services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Statistics on supported accommodation services at a point-in-time is very useful to validate "supported accommodation for the homeless" estimates in the Estimating homelessness (ABS cat no 2049.0) publication - see paragraph 88 in the Explanatory Notes.

However SHSC is not entirely comparable as it does not include reporting from non-SHS funded agencies so cannot be used for direct substitution (apart from methodological and statistical differences eg. metadata definitions and availability, reporting practices of providers). Notwithstanding, the SHSC may have complementary qualities worth exploring further, and potential changes within the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement may increase its utility as a future administrative data source.

'Journeys Home' survey was funded by DSS and managed by Melbourne Institute. It was a longitudinal dataset of homelessness that discontinued in 2015. It aimed to identify the factors leading to homelessness and the support strategies required to exit from it, rather than measuring prevalence of homelessness.

As outlined above, there are sources of homelessness data but these are either incongruent or unsuitable as alternative sources to the Census in offering a complete measure of homelessness prevalence in Australia.

Any further comments?

If you would like to tell us anything else about your submission, please comment below.

Further comments

Other content-related issues raised by HSRG members include:

Include question on Special Short Forms about duration/length of homelessness. (Western Homelessness Network)

New question on second residences could help filter out travellers, commuter workers, grey nomads (2016 HSRG submission)

Direct question on dwelling structure/adequacy to ensure mail-out areas have correct information (2016 HSRG submission)

Other issues not related to content raised by HSRG members include:

Frame

Separate 'Improvised dwellings, tents and sleepers out' into components including cars/vans, makeshift shelters; and other dwellings not meeting building standards (2016 HSRG submission)

Propose changing wording of "Q57. Housing Cooperative; Community or

Church group" to "Community Housing provider, Housing Cooperative, Church group and other social landlord or service provider" to reflect the range of housing providers (CHP). Moreover, community housing providers will become more active as the Commonwealth Government introduces reforms to private affordable housing. HSRG expects Housing submissions to advocate this content change.

Planning/Collection

Refinement of special Census enumeration strategies for accurate collection of homelessness data, ie. sector recruitment, training, field support/materials, engagement, promotion/education (Uniting, CHP, Western Homelessness Network)

ABS to work with homelessness sector to develop and implement a National Homelessness Enumeration Framework/Strategy and Implementation Plan for the 2021 Census, and conduct an Evaluation of Framework/Strategy and Plan post-Census (Shelter WA, CHP, Western Homelessness Network)

Acknowledge diversity among supported accommodation for the homeless. Need to differentiate length of tenancy to be consistent with ABS definition, as different policy responses needed for emergency /short-term accommodation and medium/long-term accommodation (ABS, Tas DHHS)

ABS to engage with other community-based organisations, beyond SHS providers, to broaden "on the ground" contacts to improve enumeration of rough sleepers eg. local governments, park rangers (Shelter WA)

ABS work with State and Territory local councils (especially inner city areas), and local service providers to identify registered and unregistered boarding houses, if lists are not publicly available (DSS, Shelter WA, Swinburne)

ABS work with State/Territory housing authorities and the homelessness sector to develop a clear and consistent approach to develop supported accommodation lists prior to 2021 Census (DSS, Shelter WA)

Achieve full representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness and reduce the incidence of 'not stated' response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin question for the homeless population (UNSW City Futures)

To improve enumeration of persons in overcrowded dwellings, suggest no limits on the online Census form. Currently a maximum of 10 people allowable for online form and 6 persons on Census Household form, although can request additional forms for filling (Shelter WA)

Estimation

Revisit estimation of overcrowding to ensure adherence to element of 'lack of privacy and social space' (DSS, Swinburne)

Consider income and sources of income as alternate means for accommodation, to improve estimation of homelessness (2016 HSRG)

submission)

Other

data linkage to health, justice and social service data (Mission Australia)

Investigate utility of AIHW SHS point-in-time data, for supported accommodation and rough sleepers presenting at services (ABS)

These suggestions were not included in the main submission as they are not related to form content, and will be considered during the inclusive strategy development phase.

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All information contained in submissions will be made available to the public on the ABS website or provided to a third party unless otherwise indicated or if you explicitly indicate that you would like all or part of your submission to remain in confidence. Automatically generated confidentiality statements in emails do not suffice for this purpose. Respondents who would like part of their submission to remain in confidence should provide this information marked as such in a separate attachment. Legal requirements, such as those imposed by the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, may affect the confidentiality of your submission.

Submissions that contain information deemed inappropriate will not be published on the website.

Confidentiality of Personal Information

Personal information including name, address and contact details will be made publically available and/or provided to a third party if they are included in your general submission. Please only include personal information on the appropriate coversheet. Personal information included in online surveys can be marked as confidential.

Delib Privacy Information

Delib's software (this website) enables organisations to set up and operate activities, through which they can engage with you.

This site is managed by the controlling organisation, Australian Bureau of Statistics. When you access and use this site, the personal information you have submitted to these activities will go to the organisation. Delib will not access your personal information unless requested to do so by the organisation, and only for the purposes

of assisting them with the administration of this site.

Accessing your Personal Information

If you have any questions or requests about your personal information, for example to request a copy of it, or to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong, please contact the organisation (as stated in their Privacy Notice / Privacy Statement / Privacy Policy). It is the controlling organisation's responsibility to answer any questions or requests about your personal information.

Collection of Browser Information

The information provided by your computer when you use this website is collected by Delib. For example, your browser type, IP address, language preference, referring site and the date and time. The purpose for collecting this information is to maintain the security of the website and for operating and improving the software.

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 Citizen Space from Delib

Help / feedback

Need a hand? For more assistance or to report an issue, please head to the overview page of the activity where you'll find contact details for the organiser who can help you navigate through or resolve any issues.

